

دكتور من الأجل

THE TIMES

30P

No. 65,534

FRIDAY MARCH 22 1996

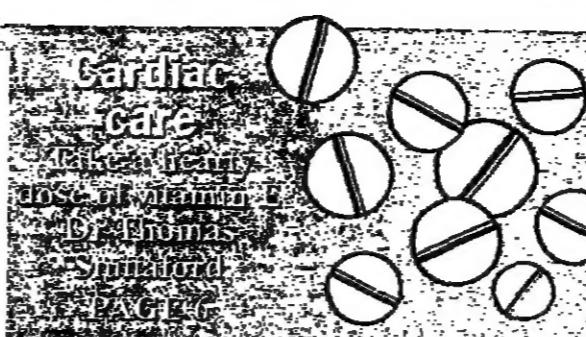
5

AUDIO LIBRARY OFFER

Collect ten audiobooks and buy 20 more at half-price. Details, PAGE 32



ARTS
Mark Knopfler on his own and in dire straits
PAGE 34



HEALTH
Get set for the tests
Our guide will help pupils and reassure parents
PAGE 36



Downing St anger as fear over mad cow disease grows and three EU partners end imports

French lead Euro-ban on British beef

BY BEN MACINTYRE IN PARIS, CHARLES BREMNER IN BRUSSELS
ROGER BOYES IN BONN AND PHILIP WEBSTER IN LONDON

BRITAIN was in confrontation with its European partners last night after France, Belgium and The Netherlands halfed imports of British beef and Germany called for a continent-wide ban.

At the same time, councils across Britain removed beef from the menus of thousands of schools and old people's homes in the light of new evidence linking "mad cow" disease and a human brain disorder. And the meat industry warned ministers that they could face a multimillion pound compensation bill.

The French action removed at a stroke Britain's most valuable market for beef — amounting to 80,000 tonnes a year worth £220 million — and dealt a devastating blow to the Government, butchers and farmers as they tried to reassure domestic consumers.

Downing Street declared the continental bans illegal, and Brussels deplored them, but some formal control on British exports seems un-

avoidable when the European Commission's veterinary committee meets on Monday. One official said: "The new British statement makes it hard to carry on as before."

Germany, which has been campaigning for years to get the possible danger posed to humans by "mad cow" disease taken seriously, is certain to press for tough restrictions and it could well sway the whole Union against Britain.

For two years, it has sought a comprehensive statement on British meat after coming under pressure from consumers, local politicians and farmers who have watched with alarm as German consumption of all meat has slumped in spite of posters at supermarkets, butcher shops and restaurants highlighting the source of all their meat.

Yesterday, Euro-sceptics were already railing against France and Sir Teddy Taylor called for a retaliatory ban on French beef and wine, saying: "We get far better wine from Australia and New Zealand."

Douglas Hogg denounced the French move as unreasonable, unnecessary and "a wholly disproportionate response" as Britain made urgent representations to Brussels to have the embargo lifted. Mr Hogg said it raised "very strong questions of illegality".

Continued on page 5, col 1

Slaughter fears, page 4
Young victims, page 5
Magnus Linklater, page 18
Leading article, page 19
Letters, page 19

FROM BEN MACINTYRE
IN PARIS

THE kilted bagpiper did his best, but a promotional lunch in Paris yesterday to encourage French consumption of Scottish products including "juicy Scotch beef" was a tense and nervous affair, coinciding with the total French ban on British beef.

"It's a disaster," declared Kate Frears, spokesman for "Food From Britain", which organised the event, part of nationwide promotion entitled "Scotland the Brand" and incorporating, among other groups, the Scotch Beef Club

of France. "The timing could hardly be worse," she added.

All over France members of the Scotch Beef Club, an association of more than 50 top restaurants that feature Scottish beef, will no doubt begin peeling the tartan sticks from their doors as *la maladie de la vache folle* grips the country.

Despite assurances that the risk was "minuscule", some of the guests at yesterday's lunch, held at Bertie's, the celebrated British restaurant in the swanky 16th arrondissement, were not so sure. The Tartare of Smoked Salmon was walloped down, the

Tobermory malt was quaffed without a second thought, the Creel of Crinan Scallops vanished in moments, but the crunch came with the Angus Beef Fillet.

"Is this a good idea?" asked Renaud Siegmund of Orléans publishers, eyeing his helping of meat as if it might at any moment leap off the plate and attack him in a frenzy of bovine insanity.

His neighbour on the "Tire table" was taking no chances, demanding that her succulent fillet be taken back to the kitchen and returned *bien cuit*, a crime against French gastronomy in any

other circumstances. When the frazzled remnant reappeared, she toyed with it, wearing a distressed air.

At the "Mull table" Damian Cronin, the former Scottish rugby international, was clearly aware that national pride was at stake and whacked into his Aberdeen Angus with theatrical relish.

With true Culloden spirit, however, the organisers of the event were not going to let the beef get them down. "Scotch food is not just about beef, you know," Alice Wood of "Scotland the Brand" observed brightly. "In New York they loved the lemon curd."



Meat course scotched by Parisians

John Major's announcement follows growing concern over firearms controls since the attack last week. An amnesty in 1988 after Michael Ryan's massacre in Hungerford led to 48,000 weapons being handed in.

The Government's swift decision will be seen as a reassurance that it is doing something to meet public concern especially as the inquiry will not report until September. Both the Firearms Consultative Council, the Government watchdog, and chief constables, have been pressuring for an amnesty.

Mr Major told the Commons at Question Time: "It has been agreed that an amnesty will take place. The question of

compensation will also have to be addressed.

Lord Cullen's judicial inquiry will have a wide-ranging remit with witnesses required to give evidence under oath. Those failing to comply could be charged with contempt.

Mr Forsyth said the inquiry into the deaths of 16 children, Gwenni Mayor, and the gunman, Thomas Hamilton, at Dunblane Primary School would be similar to that held after the 1966 Aberfan disaster in which 116 children died.

Police sources suggested that the amnesty would take about three months to organise. They want all relinquished weapons to be given forensic tests for possible crime links. The question of

Ulster elections set for May 30

Irish politicians backed away from a threatened boycott of elections in Northern Ireland.

The poll will take place on May 30, leading to all-party talks on June 10.

John Major announced a unique and complicated system of elections to a 10-member peace forum. Gerry Adams said that the plans were anathema to nationalists.

Pages 2, 19

Water war

A bid war for South West Water was triggered by the company which has had a proposal from Wessex Water on its way to the monopolies commission.

Page 23

Drinkers take heart from health survey

BY JEREMY LAURANCE AND JOE JOSEPH

WHISKY, beer and gin are good for you and can guard against heart disease, according to American experts.

The scientists at Harvard School of Public Health in Boston, Massachusetts, have destroyed the myth that only red wine is beneficial.

In an article in tomorrow's *British Medical Journal*, based on a review of 25 studies on the effect of drinking on heart disease, they conclude that moderate amounts of any alcohol reduce the risk. Current medical advice is that people who take two or three alcoholic drinks a day cut the

danger of a heart attack by one sixth. But some studies show that up to seven units a day are protective — equivalent to three and a half pints of beer or a bottle of wine.

Experiments have shown that any alcohol reduces blood's tendency to clot and increases the level of HDL cholesterol, which fights heart disease.

Starting young: Teenagers drink more alcohol than five years ago and more than half of secondary school pupils have tried it, according to the Office of Population Censuses and Surveys.

Guns amnesty to reassure public

BY RICHARD FORD
AND GILLIAN BOWDITCH

A NATIONWIDE firearms amnesty is to be held within three months, after the massacre of schoolchildren and a teacher in Dunblane, the Prime Minister announced yesterday.

The Government surprised police by disclosing the amnesty as the terms of reference were announced for the official inquiry into the killing.

Michael Howard also disclosed that opposition politicians will be invited to discuss their concerns, adding that the results of a Home Office review of firearms legislation would be given to Lord Cullen's inquiry.

John Major's announcement follows growing concern over firearms controls since the attack last week. An amnesty in 1988 after Michael Ryan's massacre in Hungerford led to 48,000 weapons being handed in.

The Government's swift decision will be seen as a reassurance that it is doing something to meet public concern especially as the inquiry will not report until September. Both the Firearms Consultative Council, the Government watchdog, and chief constables, have been pressuring for an amnesty.

Mr Major told the Commons at Question Time: "It has been agreed that an amnesty will take place. The question of

compensation will also have to be addressed.

Lord Cullen's judicial inquiry will have a wide-ranging remit with witnesses required to give evidence under oath. Those failing to comply could be charged with contempt.

Mr Forsyth said the inquiry into the deaths of 16 children, Gwenni Mayor, and the gunman, Thomas Hamilton, at Dunblane Primary School would be similar to that held after the 1966 Aberfan disaster in which 116 children died.

Police sources suggested that the amnesty would take about three months to organise. They want all relinquished weapons to be given forensic tests for possible crime links. The question of

Ulster elections set for May 30

Irish politicians backed away from a threatened boycott of elections in Northern Ireland.

The poll will take place on May 30, leading to all-party talks on June 10.

John Major announced a unique and complicated system of elections to a 10-member peace forum. Gerry Adams said that the plans were anathema to nationalists.

Pages 2, 19

Water war

A bid war for South West Water was triggered by the company which has had a proposal from Wessex Water on its way to the monopolies commission.

Page 23

Drinkers take heart from health survey

BY JEREMY LAURANCE AND JOE JOSEPH

WHISKY, beer and gin are good for you and can guard against heart disease, according to American experts.

The scientists at Harvard School of Public Health in Boston, Massachusetts, have destroyed the myth that only red wine is beneficial.

In an article in tomorrow's *British Medical Journal*, based on a review of 25 studies on the effect of drinking on heart disease, they conclude that moderate amounts of any alcohol reduce the risk. Current medical advice is that people who take two or three alcoholic drinks a day cut the

danger of a heart attack by one sixth. But some studies show that up to seven units a day are protective — equivalent to three and a half pints of beer or a bottle of wine.

Experiments have shown that any alcohol reduces blood's tendency to clot and increases the level of HDL cholesterol, which fights heart disease.

Starting young: Teenagers drink more alcohol than five years ago and more than half of secondary school pupils have tried it, according to the Office of Population Censuses and Surveys.

TV & RADIO 42, 43
WEATHER 22
CROSSWORDS 22, 44

LETTERS 19
OBITUARIES 21
BERNARD LEVIN 18

ARTS 33-35
CHESS & BRIDGE 40
COURT & SOCIAL 20

SPORT 39-42, 44
EDUCATION 36
LAW REPORT 32

Now even easier to pick up. (It's £200 lighter.)



• Award-winning notebook with 75MHz Pentium® processor. • Longer-life Lithium Ion batteries. • Price down by £200 to £1,699 (£2,025.70 incl. VAT & delivery). • From acclaimed and well-proven Dell Latitude range. • All Latitude prices down. • Call us now for heavyweight technology at lightweight prices.

• DELL LATITUDE XP750 • INTEL® 75MHz PENTIUM® PROCESSOR • 10.4" DUAL SCAN STN COLOUR DISPLAY • 8 MB RAM UPGRADEABLE TO 40 MB • 420MB REMOVABLE HARD DRIVE • ADVANCED INTELLIGENT LITHIUM ION BATTERY PACK • MICROSOFT® WINDOWS 95



01344 724772
Between 9am and 5pm weekdays, 10am to 4pm Saturdays

Dell Latitude XPS750. Now only £1,699 (£2,025.70 incl. VAT & delivery).
Call 01344 724772 or visit www.dell.com

Rival packs scoff over dog's breakfast

Paddy Ashdown got it right. The Prime Minister's rueful smile as he protested that the Liberal Democrat Leader had not got it right, said it all. This plan for Northern Ireland elections was — in Mr Ashdown's words — "a dog's breakfast". But it was "probably the only dog's breakfast on offer. It may well be the best dog's breakfast that can be arrived at." From the Ulster kennels to left and right of the chair the yaps and growls confirmed our canine analysis.

None of these pouches liked the breakfast much; none of them liked each other at all; and every one mistrusted their London kennel masters. How to resolve these



MATTHEW W. PARRIS

POLITICAL SKETCH

GOALS

competing hostilities? Northern Ireland's MPs decided to growl at the breakfast but without quite kicking over the dog-bowl: all the while watching rival hounds from the corner of the eye lest any should try to corner the breakfast for themselves.

John Major spoke with force and clarity, but the plans he had to recommend were hard for MPs to grasp. Tony Blair responded positively and with equal dispatch. Paddy Ashdown was brief and plain. The three party leaders were in the mood to be reasonable and make the best of a difficult situation.

But that was the easy part. After all, none of these men

was being asked to eat the breakfast. David Trimble, the Leader of the Ulster Unionists, was. And to him this was, frankly, more like cat-food than Pedigree Chum, concocted by "an unholy alliance" between the Paisleyite and the nationalist dog-packs, and Dublin. He couldn't fathom why his own party's breakfast request had been rejected. But still he gave the impression that he and his fellow-hounds might eat the dish if they absolutely had to. For the nationalist

For Ian Paisley's Demo-

cratic Unionist Party, Peter Robinson (Belfast) declared the breakfast to be "the most broadly unacceptable" dog food it was possible for Major to devise. Pausing to yap at the other "Official" Unionist dogs, across the floor ("whinging and parlicking," he said) he returned to scoff and sneer at what had been placed before him, blaming its contents on them. He too, however, deplored the meal without rejecting it.

Each pack was blaming the ingredients of the breakfast on a conspiracy between the London kennelmaster and the other two dog packs. Speaking as kennelmaster, John Major showed the strain. At Seamus Mallon's

intervention he nearly snapped. To each he repeated that whoever proved the stumbling block to this process would not be forgiven by the people of Northern Ireland themselves.

Sir Patrick Mayhew, the Northern Ireland Secretary, impassive on the bench beside him, Major pleaded with earnest, exasperated patience. He looked like a man driven often to the edge, but never over it. The Ulster MPs sounded like men almost ready to give him that final push... but in the event not quite.

"Give them independence!" grunted a despairing Sir Patrick Cormack (C. Staffs S.). He grunted for many.

Poll plan for Ulster receives grudging support

By ARTHUR LEATHLEY AND NICHOLAS WATT

JOHN MAJOR last night cleared a crucial hurdle in the search for peace in Northern Ireland when politicians backed away from a threatened boycott of elections in the Province. They will take place on May 30, with all-party talks scheduled for June 10.

The Prime Minister unveiled a highly complicated system to elect the 110 members of the peace forum. It was forced on him after the political parties failed to agree to any established form of poll.

There will be five seats for each of Northern Ireland's 18 parliamentary constituencies. The electors will vote for a party. Each party will publish a list of five candidates for each constituency and rank their candidates so that the first one is their favourite to succeed. A further 20 seats will be selected through complicated arithmetic after the vote. All the votes in the constituencies will be added together and the ten most successful parties across Northern Ireland will win two elected representatives each from party lists published in advance. The parties elected to the 110-member forum will then select smaller negotiating teams.

Nationalist politicians complained that Mr Major's compromise proposals were Unionist-inspired, but there were no immediate threats to pull out of the elections.

The Prime Minister emphasised that Sinn Fein would not take part in the all-party talks unless the IRA ceasefire was restored and the issue of decommissioning weapons was addressed. The party will, however, be allowed to take part in the elections even if the ceasefire is not revived.

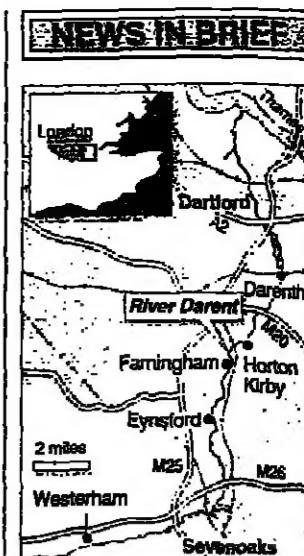
Gerry Adams, the Sinn Fein president, said the election plans were "anathema" to nationalists.

Mr Major described the election package as a "visible and reasonable way forward" that demanded compromise from everybody. He acknowledged there was a risk of politicians refusing to take part, but said that "no one who stands unreasonably in the way of a settlement will be readily forgiven".

Paddy Ashdown, Liberal Democrat leader, described the plans as "a dog's breakfast", but "it may well be the best dog's breakfast".

A senior source in Dublin said: "It gives something to everybody, but nothing to everybody."

Politics, page 10
Leading article, page 19



Kent river saved from drought

The River Darent in Kent is being made drought-proof. The river has run dry during most summers since 1976, but yesterday Lord Crickhowell, chairman of the National Rivers Authority, switched on the first of six artificial springs that will feed the chalk river at times of low flow. Several such schemes are planned. The amount of water taken by Thames Water from the catchment area is being reduced.

Oxfam cuts £5.6m
Oxfam says the National Lottery is partly to blame for cuts amounting to £5.6 million that are likely to mean the loss of 50 jobs and the closure of overseas projects. People have also been less willing to donate to Oxfam's charity shops.

Life for hitman
A hitman who took up a contract on a millionaire car dealer was jailed for life at the Old Bailey. Kevin Lane, 26, of Potton, Bedfordshire, was convicted of murdering Robert Magill, 44, as he walked his dog near his home in Hertfordshire.

£2m mugging
Two muggers escaped with jewels worth almost £2 million after spraying CS gas into the face of a 29-year-old German jewellery salesman in Hatton Garden, central London, on Wednesday night, police said yesterday.

Forward jailed
A rugby forward was jailed for eight months for attacks on two players in different matches. Ian Thickpenny, 31, playing for Barry, broke the jaw of one player and the eye socket of another, Cardiff Crown Court was told.

In harmony
The Hallé Orchestra and the Royal Liverpool Philharmonic are to perform together for the first time next month. The concert, at the Royal Philharmonic Hall in Liverpool, marks Granada Television's fortieth anniversary.

Families claim damages as Sheriff contradicts RAF's finding of negligence

Inquiry clears RAF pilots in Chinook helicopter crash

By GILLIAN BOWDITCH, MICHAEL EVANS AND NICHOLAS WATT

THE two pilots of the RAF Chinook helicopter that crashed into the Mull of Kintyre killing 25 anti-terrorist specialists cannot be blamed for the tragedy, a second inquiry has ruled.

Sheriff Sir Stephen Young, who carried out a four-week fatal accident inquiry in Paisley, has concluded that he can find no cause for the accident in 1994 and no evidence that it

was caused by pilot error. The report, which is due to be published today, contradicts the official RAF board of inquiry which found the pilots grossly negligent.

Yesterday the families of Flight Lieutenant Jonathan Tapper, 28, and his co-pilot Flight Lieutenant Richard Cook, 30, called on the RAF to retract their finding. Lawyers for the families also said they

would immediately lodge claims for compensation and damages.

Compensation is currently being negotiated by the families of the civilian victims, who included senior members of MI5 and the Royal Ulster Constabulary Special Branch. The widows of the two pilots feared they would receive no compensation.

Peter Watson, solicitor for the Cook family, said: "They have been completely vindicated. I will be lodging a claim for damages immediately with the RAF on behalf of Flight Lieutenant Cook's widow Sara and two-year-old daughter Eleanor."

However, the Ministry of Defence said the widows had always been entitled to make a claim but had not done so. RAF sources also continued to insist that, despite Sir Stephen's report, there remained no other possible conclusion than the one reached by Air Vice-Marshal John Day, Air Officer Commanding No 1 Group. His judgment that the pilots were to blame was



Widows of those killed in the accident at a press conference in Belfast yesterday

supported by Air Chief Marshal Sir Bill Wratten, Air Officer Commanding-in-Chief Strike Command.

The sources said that the board of inquiry led by a wing commander and two squadron leaders found nothing mechanically wrong with the Chinook. One source said: "The fact that the Chinook had to climb suddenly to try to fly over the mountain indicated

that the pilots were taken by surprise. They had been flying below the safe altitude for those sort of weather conditions.

The RAF's position was rejected by John Cook, father of Richard Cook and a former RAF pilot. He said: "The inquiry by Sir Stephen Young has cleared my son's name, which is what we have been fighting for."

The two pilots were flying a new Mark II Chinook when it crashed into a fog-covered mountain on the Mull 20 minutes after take-off. The helicopter was bound for a security conference at Fort George near Inverness.

Sir Stephen said it had not been established to his satisfaction or on the balance of probability that the cause was "the decision of the crew to overfly the Mull of Kintyre at cruising speed and their selection for that purpose of the

incorrect rate of climb". Mr Cook said other Chinook pilots had told him they were worried about its safety.

The inquiry was told that Flight Lieutenant Tapper had voiced a number of concerns about the helicopter which had been brought into service in Northern Ireland only two days before the crash.

Verdicts of accidental death were returned at an inquest into the deaths of two Britons and three Algerian airmen killed when a plane exporting veal calves to the Continent crashed, narrowly missing a housing estate. The two-day hearing at Coventry was told that stock handlers Adrian Sharp, 31, of Kirkthorpe near Wakefield, West Yorkshire, and Andrew Yates, 23, of Rugby, Warwickshire, were killed instantly when the Air Algeria Boeing 737 crashed near Coventry airport in December 1994.

Flight Lieutenants Tapper (left) and Cook: their families will now make claims for compensation

UP TO £100 FREE CALLS

DIXONS
The Link

ONE 2 ONE MERCURY

DIGITAL CALL CLARITY AND PRIVACY

PER SECOND BILLING

You only pay for the exact time you use.

UNDER 6p PER MINUTE OFF PEAK CALLS

All off peak calls to any where in the UK now cost 5.9p per minute weekdays 6pm to 7am and all weekend.

FREE VOICEMAIL

Plus free message retrieval with silver and gold tariffs.

Ask in store for full details of the One 2 One digital network.

FREE LOCAL WEEKEND CALLS

NOW AVAILABLE ON THE SOUTH COAST



MOTOROLA m301
DIGITAL MOBILE PHONE
Up to 70 minutes talktime/
12 hours standby.
Instore price £99.99
HALF PRICE CHEQUEBACK PRICE
£49.99*
Plus £25 SIM card connection

MOTOROLA FLARE
DIGITAL MOBILE PHONE
Up to 60 minutes talktime/
12 hours standby.
Instore price £129.99
SAVE £50*
£79.99*
CHEQUEBACK PRICE
Plus £25 SIM card connection

ERICSSON PH337
DIGITAL MOBILE PHONE
Up to 120 minutes talktime/
17 hours standby.
Instore price £149.99
£149.99
Plus £25 SIM card connection

Dunblane children go back to school

By GILLIAN BOWDITCH

THE children of Dunblane Primary School will return to their classes today for the first time since 16 pupils and their teacher were shot dead ten days ago.

Social workers and counsellors will be on hand to help when the school opens between 9am and noon and parents will be invited to stay for a short time.

Gerry McDermott, of the school board, said teachers would try to make the day as normal as possible but he acknowledged that this would be difficult. He said it was still to be decided if the headmaster Ron Taylor, one of the first on the scene after the massacre, would address the whole school of 700 pupils. One problem is that the gym where the shooting took place was also used as the assembly hall.

Parents have been sent letters by the local authority outlining arrangements and telling them "it will be a special and different day". A spokeswoman for Central Regional Council's education department said: "I don't think it will be like a normal day. It is more to get them reacquainted with the school and the first stage of getting back to normality."

The last funerals took place yesterday. Gwenne Mayor, the teacher who died, was buried after a service at the 13th-century cathedral. Later the funeral of Brett McKinnon, six, was held at the cathedral. The service for Ross Irvine, five, took place in private in Ayr.

WANTED, STUDENTS WHO'D LIKE TO LEAVE COLLEGE WITH MORE THAN JUST GOOD GRADES

What do you want from college? 3 A'levels? 4 A'levels? Something more? Like confidence and leadership skills? Or a challenging career?

Weber isn't just a college of academic training. It's a college of Army life, where students experience outward-bound courses, a wide range of sports, Combined Cadet Force and character development.

If you'd like to learn more about the Sixth Form College where you can earn income, then write and return the Army Officer coupon below.

The Weber option is science-based. You'll need at least 3 good GCSEs (including Maths, Science and English) to be considered. Tuition is free. For full details call 0850 311 0002 quoting ref. 222 or post the coupon to Army Officer Entry, Farnborough, Hants GU14 6JZ.

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

POSTCODE _____

DATE OF BIRTH _____

FREEPHONE 0500 222 666 FOR YOUR NEAREST STORE AND FREE 48 PAGE CATALOGUE.

• EXPERT ADVICE
• UK'S BIGGEST RANGE
• GREAT VALUE FOR MONEY

Dixons
The Link
The Communications Specialist.

Personal stereo plea rejected

Inventor who lost leaves taxpayer with £500,000 bill

By TIM JONES
AND FRANCES GIBB

A WEALTHY German inventor's attempt to prove that he invented the personal stereo will cost the British taxpayer £500,000 after his claim, funded by legal aid, was thrown out by the Court of Appeal yesterday.

Andreas Pavel, who has spent his £1 million inheritance in seven years of court battles with Sony in the hope of becoming a multimillionaire, was criticised by the judges for the £2.7 million costs he had run up in court hearings. The proceedings had resulted in "inefficiency, delay and excessive costs", the judges said, as they ordered Herr Pavel to pay the Court of Appeal bill, which alone came to £500,000.

However, payment will fall to the Legal Aid Board which funded Herr Pavel's appeal, despite his shareholdings estimated by Sony's lawyers at "hundreds of thousands of pounds" and strong objections lodged by Sony.

Herr Pavel, 51, who lives in Milan, first thought of his "stereophonic system for personal wear" while on a walking holiday in the 1970s and made a prototype for which he took our patents in Germany, Britain and other countries.

Herr Pavel had claimed that his personal stereo, which incorporated a pair of headphones, a belt, cassette player, amplifier and storage pouch, was inventive and not obvious. However, the judges ruled that his patent was not an inventive concept and refused him leave to appeal in the House of Lords.

Lord Justice Aldous said the



Pavel, who says he will continue his battle

evidence had not established the success of the Walkman was due to the inventive concept as claimed. "The Walkman would have been successful without any belt, clip or loop for belt attachment. Its success appears to have been due to its sophisticated system for producing high-quality sound reproduction."

Last night Herr Pavel said: "I am disappointed and frustrated with the judgment. I think the judges were superficial and I don't think they fully understood the concept."

Herr Pavel lodged his original unsuccessful action in the Patent County Court: it cost Sony £1.4 million, Toshiba £300,000 and Herr Pavel £500,000. If he had won his case, he could have expected £100 million in royalties from worldwide sales. Sony is estimated to have earned £3 billion from its Walkman.

In spite of debts now exceeding his assets, Herr Pavel intends to continue his global

legal battle. Asked about the fact he was being funded by the British taxpayer he said: "It was the British legal system that ruined me and I am only using the rules. I would have paid for the appeal but I lost all my money in the first case."

The case is the latest in which the Legal Aid Board has come under fire. Two weeks ago it was strongly criticised over granting legal aid to help a robber to investigate a claim against the police for shooting him during his arrest.

It will also reopen the debate about granting legal aid to foreign nationals. The Lord Chancellor recently consulted on whether foreign nationals should be denied legal aid. Sir Thomas Legg, permanent secretary of the Lord Chancellor's Department, told MPs this week that the overwhelming view from those consulted was that foreign nationals were entitled to legal aid on the same footing as British nationals, who are equally entitled to legal aid that exists in other countries.

Donald Jerrard, a solicitor for Sony, said yesterday: "We will now be pursuing the Legal Aid Board for our costs, although the likelihood is that we shan't be able to get back much more than one third of the total."

He added: "We do not believe he should have been granted legal aid. Herr Pavel had to reveal the extent of his assets after the first hearing, and Sony believes those assets were far in excess of the limit for legal aid. Herr Pavel had argued that his assets were not disposable because the shares were in family companies and so on."

THE wife of Ron Atkinson, the Premier League football manager, was handcuffed to the banisters at their home by masked robbers and left for more than 12 hours.

Maggie Atkinson, 47, discovered the three intruders inside the mock-Tudor house in Barnet Green, Hereford and Worcester, where the couple have lived for six months. She was pushed to the floor, her jewellery was taken and then she was marched to the bedroom and forced to hand over cash and other items.

She was handcuffed to the banisters on the landing of the £250,000 house where she was eventually found at 10.30 yesterday morning by Mr Atkinson's driver.

Mr Atkinson, the flamboyant manager of Coventry City and former manager of West

Bromwich Albion, Manchester United, Sheffield Wednesday and Aston Villa, was not at home when the men broke into the house at about 9.30pm on Wednesday.

The raiders struck while he was appearing on television in London to commentate on a match between Juventus and Real Madrid in the European Champions' League. He is understood to have stayed in London rather than make the journey back to the Midlands late at night.

He tried to telephone his wife at home but kept getting the answering machine and reported the problem to BT as a potential fault.

The Atkinsons, who married six years ago, are believed to be under contract to tell the story of Wednesday night's incident to a national newspaper. But in a brief

interview with the *Coventry Evening Telegraph*, Mr Atkinson, 56, said yesterday: "The police formed the impression that the burglars had no idea it was my place and that it was just a coincidence."

A spokesman for West Mercia police said last night: "Mrs Atkinson heard noises in the hall and went to investigate. She was confronted by three men wearing balaclavas.

"They forced her to lead them into the bedroom. They were extremely aggressive and stole the jewellery she was wearing. Mrs Atkinson was not physically hurt apart from abrasions caused by the handcuffs, but she was obviously extremely distressed.

"We would ask anyone who saw anything suspicious in the area of Mearse Lane to contact us." No value has been given for the stolen items. Mr Atkinson said last night: "It has been particularly distressing, but fortunately Maggie is very resilient and took it, not necessarily well, but showed a lot of courage. She is very tired and is going to bed for a while." He refused to pose for pictures.

Peter Lee, a family friend who was at the house, said: "Ron was away for the night and did not know what had happened to Maggie. The family just want to be left alone as Mrs Atkinson is still in shock and wishes to rest."

He said the couple had only moved to the house, at the foot of the Lickey Hills, six months ago. "They lived close by in another house but moved here because it was so secluded," he said.

A neighbour, who did not want to be named, said: "I think she will bear up under the strain but it must have been very frightening. If only she could have got to a phone she would have been able to get help instead of lying there all night."

Lottery winners say they never had it so good

By ALEXANDRA FREAN, MEDIA CORRESPONDENT

TWO men who scooped the National Lottery jackpot countered the myth yesterday that winning a fortune leads to misery, broken relationships, press persecution, beggar letters and excess.

Bob Westland, a former sub-postmaster from Alton, near Stirling, who won £3.8 million last July, told the Heritage Select Committee's inquiry into the lottery that it had made him very happy and secure. Mr Westland, 58, who has fulfilled his wife Ann's dream of buying a small country house hotel that they are to run as a family business, said suggestions from MPs that becoming a millionaire overnight could lead to misery.

"Anyone who says it will make you miserable doesn't know what they are talking about," he said. In addition to setting up the hotel business with two of his sons and his wife, a former deputy headmistress, Mr Westland has given away £500,000 and has set up another son with his own company.

Ken Southwell, a former communications engineer who won £339,000 on the first lottery draw, in November 1994, said that he had been perfectly happy with his life before his win, but conceded that the win had given him

financial security for life. He had also paid off his sister's mortgage and set up a financial fund for her.

Although he had initially been disappointed that his employer, Tele-Aerial Satellite, a subsidiary of BSkyB, had questioned his continuing loyalty and asked him to leave, Mr Southwell, 37, said that with hindsight the firm had done him a favour.

He now runs his and lets houses and plans to expand. Both men said that they did not think that the jackpot prizes were too large. Asked if the win had led to intrusive media coverage, Mr Westland said that the opposite was true. Media interest had been a "seven-day wonder", he said, and had been very well handled by Camelot, the lottery operator.

Mr Southwell said he did not really have the chance to avoid publicity as a winner in the first draw but it had not bothered him. Neither went on a spending spree.

The only criticism the two men had was that they would have preferred two sessions with Camelot's financial advisers instead of one. Asked by MPs how they chose their numbers, Mr Southwell said his were based on birthdays while Mr Westland revealed his were random.

Earl's phone mast riles composer

By MICHAEL HORSNELL

THE ERECTION of a 50ft mobile telephone relay mast on the Earl of Carnarvon's estate has led to a war of words with his neighbours, Sir Andrew and Lady Lloyd Webber.

The composer and his wife have objected to the local council, which is considering whether to grant planning permission to the metal tower, which stands in a designated area of outstanding natural beauty on the Highclere Estate in Berkshire. Lord Carnarvon, the Queen's racing manager, allowed Vodafone to erect last November on his land under Beacon Hill near Newbury on a temporary basis, for which he receives a nominal rent.

The 7th Earl said yesterday that he had allowed it subject to full permission by the Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council. A recommendation by its planning officers to go ahead will be considered next week. The relay mast,

complete with antennae, is intended to boost the signal on the Vodafone network. Sir Andrew and his wife, who live two miles from Lord Carnarvon's Highclere Castle, cannot see it from their home.

But Lady Lloyd Webber said: "We are not whingeing on about what's going on in our backyard. I am just astonished that the council and the landowner should allow permission for this mast to go up in an area of outstanding natural beauty. With all these masts sprouting up, the countryside is going to be turned into a pin cushion."

Lord Carnarvon said: "You have to judge the mast on what it looks like in its present position against the national need for mobile telephones. If there is a big enough objection locally then we shall not agree to it becoming permanent."

The local authority is believed to have received eight objections.

Parishioners' charity donations went to 'nonexistent' orphanage

By RUTH GLEEDHILL
RELIGION CORRESPONDENT

PARISHIONERS at a church in North Wales have given thousands of pounds to an orphanage in India that does not appear to exist.

For more than ten years, up to 50 churchgoers at Mold, Clwyd, have held coffee mornings and collected donations in envelopes to help an orphanage in Rajahmundry.

In return for £16,000 given since 1983, they received regular reports on the progress of the children said to be in the orphanage, as well as audited accounts of how their money was being spent.

But although photographs continued to arrive, the children's case histories dried up and the Vicar of Mold, the Rev

Ian Day, asked his local MP, David Hanson, to have the orphanage checked out. His parishioners were horrified to learn from the Foreign Office that the orphanage appears to exist on paper only.

According to Jeremy Harley, a Foreign Office Minister, the organisation was registered by a local Indian driver who has since been receiving donations from sources in various countries.

After the investigations by the British Council division in Hyderabad, Mr Harley advised donors not to send any more cash to the "charity".

Last night Mr Day, who has made the affair public to warn other donors, said that he still hoped further investigations might elicit

positive news. The address given for the orphanage is in a particularly remote part of the country and has not been visited by a British Council official.

Mr Day said: "We have got lots of pictures of children. We have got children's histories from the early years."

He said the parishioners had originally been put in touch with the orphanage by the Girls' Friendly Society of London. They had it checked twice by a representative of the Anglican Church of Southern India, who told them the orphanage was genuine and 100 rupees a month for each child.

Mr Day said he now had mixed feelings about the generosity of his flock. "There is a sense of pride at being part of the Foreign Office."

a community that wanted to do something so positive to help," he said. "But there is also total disappointment that they appear to have been duped. I am quite saddened by it."

He said he was uplifted by the desire of his parishioners still to help the needy. "One lady said that if she couldn't give money there, she will give it elsewhere," the vicar said.

Mr Hanson, Labour MP for Denbigh, will be tabling questions in Parliament on the charity next week. He said: "My instinct is to support the local church. They raised it with me because they felt unsure of the feedback they were getting. I'm going to ask for further investigations from the Foreign Office."

"You can get it with the Woolwich."

YOUR HOME IS AT RISK IF YOU DO NOT KEEP UP REPAYMENTS ON A MORTGAGE OR OTHER LOAN SECURED ON IT.

See our leaflet for full details. The rate is variable and typical and calculated on the assumption that the discounted mortgage rate will apply for the full term of the loan, however, after the first year, the Society's prevailing standard variable mortgage rate will, in fact, apply. These terms apply only where a written offer of advance was issued on or after 9.3.95 and the mortgage completed by 31.7.95. Typical example: A £100,000 loan at an initial rate of 5.3% p.a. APR 5.6% p.a. This example is based on a repayment mortgage of £100,000 over 25 years (where the amount of the advance is 7.25% of the Society's valuation of the property) would pay interest of £184.17 per month gross (300 payments). Accrued interest £92.08. Valuer's fee £155.00. Application fee £59.00. Solicitor's mortgage charges £107.94.08. 2.25% 4.25% APR. The example assumes the mortgage starts in the middle of the month, a minimum guaranteed death benefit of £52,000 and a term of 25 years for the enforcement period. A first charge over the property is required. The Society's prevailing standard variable mortgage rate will also be charged. A variable level term assurance premium will also be charged. A term plan will also be charged. An indemnity level term assurance premium will also be required where the mortgage exceeds the Society's normal maximum percentage advance of 75%. If the mortgage is either redeemed (in full or in part) or transferred to another scheme before the fourth anniversary of the date on which interest is first charged on the mortgage, the value of the cashback you have received must be repaid in full and a redemption fee equivalent to the savings made as a result of the discount will be charged. The redemption fee will be subject to a maximum charge of £100.00. The cashback will be paid at the end of the term of the mortgage or earlier if the cash may affect personal tax liability. To Capitalise Tax. All mortgagors are subject to status, valuation and a maximum age of 18. A written quotation is available from your local branch or the Woolwich Building Society, Dept 15, Corporate HQ, Watling Street, Bedfords, Kent DA4 7RR. The Woolwich Building Society represents only the Woolwich Marketing Group, which is regulated by the Personal Investment Authority for life assurance and unit trust business.

CB16



Maggie Atkinson, who was left handcuffed to the banisters overnight after burglars wearing balaclavas stole jewellery and cash

Thieves handcuff Ron Atkinson's wife

BY RICHARD DUCE



Atkinson in London at the time of the attack

**Plus a 3% discount in the first year.
4.25% (4.4% APR)**

At the Woolwich our new Cashback Plus Mortgage offers up to £6,000' cashback and a 3% discount for one year. It's available to all new mortgage customers and existing customers on the move.

If you take out a mortgage at our standard variable rate, and do not borrow more than 95% of the Society's valuation, not only will we reduce your payments by 3% for the first year but - after completion - we will give you a cheque for 3% of the loan up to £6,000!



Now, with our award-winning performance for our mortgages over the long-term, this offer is more proof that it's good to be with the Woolwich.

So call in to your local Woolwich branch to have a chat with our mortgage adviser. Or call Woolwich Direct at local rate Monday to Friday 8.30am - 9.00pm, Saturday 9.00am - 3.00pm or Sunday 10.00am - 2.00pm on 0645 75 75 75 quoting ref. TI223.

<http://www.woolwich.co.uk/woolwich>

**It's good to be with the
WOOLWICH
BUILDING SOCIETY**

Farmers face abyss of all-out slaughter

By MICHAEL HORNSBY, AGRICULTURE CORRESPONDENT

DAIRY and beef farmers are staring into the abyss as they contemplate the possibility of the slaughter of the entire national cattle herd to wipe out "mad cow" disease.

Stephen Dorrell, the Health Secretary, shocked the farming community by confirming that wholesale slaughter was "one of the options that is open" should there be a surge in cases of Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease (CJD), the human counterpart of bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE).

Sir David Naish, president of the National Farmers' Union, said he could not imagine such a policy ever being necessary but admitted: "I supposed anything could be done if that is the right way to protect public health."

Nearly 16,000 cattle showing symptoms of BSE have

Cattle prices slumped by an average of 12 per cent in Britain's livestock markets yesterday, according to the Meat and Livestock Commission. Farmers held back rather than sell their animals with the price low and the number of cattle going through markets was down by about 30 per cent. Prices for steers, heifers and young bulls averaged 107.3p per kilogramme liveweight, down 14p on the previous week, bringing down the average price per head from £693 to £612.

already been slaughtered and destroyed. In the last comparable animal health crisis, some 400,000 livestock were culled in an epidemic of foot-and-mouth in 1967. But what is now being contemplated would be unprecedented.

Britain has 12 million head of beef and dairy cattle on some 136,000 farms, according to the Meat and Livestock Commission (MLC). More than half of all farmers earn at least some of their income from cattle.

The breeding stock consists of 3.2 million dairy cows and heifers and 2.1 million beef cows and heifers. In addition, there are 6.7 million calves and younger animals being reared for their meat on both dairy and beef farms.

Mick Sloyan, the MLC's chief economist, said: "Last year we reckon that farmers earned £2 billion from the slaughter of 3.3 million cattle.

Magnus Linklater, page 18
Leading article, page 19
Letters, page 19

"We must not go overboard and devastate an entire industry." But Richard Haddock, who rears 1,000 beef cattle on his farm at Kingswear, near Dartmouth, said drastic measures were needed to restore public confidence. He suggested that all older dairy cattle should be destroyed and banned from sale as beef.

The Archers was re-recorded at the eleventh hour yesterday to bring the latest BSE scare to Ambridge. Scriptwriters took the rare step of rewriting last night's episode to allow the characters in the long-running BBC Radio 4 serial to air their views on the subject. Actors were recalled to the Birmingham studio to record a new storyline.

TONY FOWLER OF THE MEAT AND LIVESTOCK COMMISSION SAID: "The case is partly strategic and goes back to the Second World War and the shortage of food supplies that continued for several years afterwards." He also cited social and economic reasons.

RURAL COMMUNITIES WOULD BE DEPOPULATED. WITHOUT SOME SORT OF HELP, FARMERS' INCOMES WOULD SUFFER BADLY AND SO WOULD THE RURAL ECONOMY.

THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE ENDORSED THE ARGUMENTS.

A spokesman said: "If you didn't have subsidies there would be no farming in hill areas, in the uplands such as the Pennines and in much of Scotland and Wales." The department also emphasised environmental reasons.

NEVERTHELESS, THE GOVERNMENT IS COMMITTED TO MAKING AGRICULTURE MORE MARKET-ORIENTED BUT THE BIGGEST OBSTACLE REMAINS THE COMMON AGRICULTURAL POLICY.

THE DEPARTMENT SAID: "IF YOU MOVED TO MARKET FORCES OVERNIGHT, AGRICULTURE WOULD BE WIPE OUT NOT JUST IN THE UPPLANDS BUT IN MOST OF SOUTHERN EUROPE. AGRICULTURE HAS TO BE SUBSIDISED TO KEEP IT GOING." THE ARGUMENT WOULD HAVE SOUNDED FAMILIAR TO ARTHUR SCARGILL.

Farmers at the cattle market in Banbury yesterday. More than half of all British farmers earn at least some of their income from cattle

Why agriculture is a special case

By NIGEL WILLIAMSON
WHITEHALL CORRESPONDENT

SUBSIDIES

FEW INDUSTRIES OTHER THAN FARMING HAVE BEEN SO IMMUNE TO MARKET FORCES. EVEN A RADICAL CONSERVATIVE GOVERNMENT COMMITTED TO THE IRON LAW OF THE MARKET HAS DONE LITTLE TO REDUCE THE £2.8 BILLION A YEAR SUBSIDY TO BRITISH FARMERS. MUCH OF THAT COMES FROM THE EUROPEAN UNION BUT THE COAL AND STEEL INDUSTRIES NEVER ENJOYED SUCH TREATMENT.

TONY FOWLER OF THE MEAT AND LIVESTOCK COMMISSION SAID: "THE CASE IS PARTLY STRATEGIC AND GOES BACK TO THE SECOND WORLD WAR AND THE SHORTAGE OF FOOD SUPPLIES THAT CONTINUED FOR SEVERAL YEARS AFTERWARDS." HE ALSO CITED SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC REASONS.

RURAL COMMUNITIES WOULD BE DEPOPULATED. WITHOUT SOME SORT OF HELP, FARMERS' INCOMES WOULD SUFFER BADLY AND SO WOULD THE RURAL ECONOMY.

THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE PAID £8.3 MILLION COMPENSATION FOR ENFORCED SLAUGHTERING

Industry says Government must foot bill if jobs go

By ANDREW PIERCE

LEADERS OF BRITAIN'S £12 BILLION MEAT INDUSTRY HAVE SAID THAT THE GOVERNMENT COULD FACE A MASSIVE COMPENSATION BILL IF THE BSE SCARE HAS A SERIOUS IMPACT ON SALES.

AT A PRIVATE MEETING WITH ANGELA BROWNING, THE JUNIOR AGRICULTURE MINISTER, ON WEDNESDAY REPRESENTATIVES MADE CLEAR THEY WOULD HOLD THE GOVERNMENT RESPONSIBLE IF THERE WERE ANY JOB LOSSES AND BANKRUPTCY.

MEAT PRODUCERS FEAR A SALMONELLA-IN-EGGS TYPE OF CRISIS THAT COULD COST THOUSANDS OF JOBS IN THE INDUSTRY, ALREADY AFFECTED BY A GROWING TREND TOWARDS VEGETARIANISM. BEEF SALES ARE ABOUT £4 BILLION, ALMOST A THIRD OF THE INDUSTRY'S ANNUAL TURNOVER.

THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE PAID £8.3 MILLION COMPENSATION FOR ENFORCED SLAUGHTERING

OF HENS AFTER EDWINA CURRIE, WHILE HEALTH MINISTER, SAID MOST OF BRITAIN'S FARMED CHICKENS WERE INFECTED WITH SALMONELLA.

FEELINGS ARE RUNNING HIGH IN THE MEAT TRADE, WHICH EMPLOYS ABOUT 40,000 PEOPLE.

THE DECISION TO DELAY UNTIL SUNDAY AN ANNOUNCEMENT ABOUT THE EFFECT OF BSE ON

COMPENSATION

CHILDREN HAS FURTHER WORRIED PRODUCERS AND RETAILERS.

THE MEAT AND LIVESTOCK COMMISSION IS CONSIDERING A ONE-OFF LEVY ON MEMBERS TO FUND AN ADVERTISING CAMPAIGN EXALTING THE VIRTUES OF BRITISH BEEF.

JOHN FULLER, CHIEF EXECUTIVE OF THE NATIONAL FEDERATION OF MEAT AND FOOD TRADERS WHICH REPRESENTS 3,500 INDEPENDENT BUTCHER'S SHOPS, SAID:

"WE WILL BE FIGHTING HARD ONCE

MORE TO ADVISE THE PUBLIC AND OUR MEMBERS ABOUT THE VIRTUES OF BRITISH BEEF. BUT IT IS A REAL PAIN THAT EVERY TIME THE SCARE GOES AWAY THE GOVERNMENT RELEASES ANOTHER BATCH OF INFORMATION.

"WE HAVE BEEN LEFT DANGLING IN THE AIR WITH THE PROSPECT OF MORE ANNOUNCEMENTS THIS WEEKEND. MRS BROWNING, AT OUR MEETING, AGREED TO MEET WITH US TO DISCUSS OUR CONCERN OVER COMPENSATION IF THERE IS A COLLAPSE IN SALES."

THE MINISTRY CAN ARTIFICIALLY SUPPORT THE PRICE OF BEEF THROUGH INTERVENTION IN THE MARKET. IT CAN BUY BEEF, FREEZE IT AND SELL IT BACK TO THE MARKET WHEN DEMAND HAS RECOVERED.

"IT IS AN OPTION OPEN TO US THROUGH THE COMMON AGRICULTURAL POLICY," A SPEAKSMAN SAID. "WHETHER WE WOULD GIVE COMPENSATION TO FARMERS DIRECT HAS NOT BEEN CONSIDERED AT THIS STAGE."

"Irritable Bowel Syndrome pain ruled my life. But Relaxyl* changed the rules."

THE UNCERTAINTY OF IBS.

You can never tell when Irritable Bowel Syndrome (IBS) will next strike, nor what form it will take. You may suffer any or all of the following symptoms: stomach muscle spasms leading to cramping pains in the lower stomach, bloatedness and digestive disorders such as constipation or diarrhoea.

HOW DO YOU KNOW YOU HAVE IBS?
The individual's experience of the syndrome can vary so widely. If you are in any doubt you should consult your doctor.

IBS: WHAT CAUSES IT AND WHY DOES IT CONTINUE?

It's likely that stress or a bout of gastro-enteritis can trigger IBS. Once affected, the intestine then reacts unpredictably to certain things, such as particular foods and further stress.

Simply, your intestine goes into spasm: it knots up. Frequently this results in pain; although the other symptoms may also stem from this.



AT LAST - A TREATMENT.

For years, doctors have prescribed alverine citrate for Irritable Bowel Syndrome. Now, this treatment is available without prescription - as Relaxyl*. It calms the spasms that cause IBS; to help restore normal bowel rhythm and relieve the pain and discomfort. If you think Relaxyl* could help you, ask your pharmacist for advice.

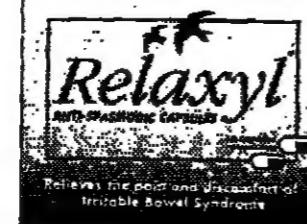
Ask your pharmacist about Relaxyl* for IBS

To stop the spasms that start the pain

Contains alverine citrate

Always read the label

Trade Mark



FOR FURTHER INFORMATION ON RELAXYL WRITE TO: RELAXYL, PO BOX 21, GODALMING, SURREY, GU7 2SS

Outbreak probably started in sheep

By NIGEL HAWKES
SCIENCE EDITOR

BSE IN BRITAIN PROBABLY ORIGINATED FROM SHEEP FLOCKS THAT CARRIED AN ESPECIALLY RESILIENT FORM OF SCRAPPY, VETERINARY SCRAPIE.

WHEN, IN THE 1970S AND EARLY 80S, TWO VIRAL CHANGES WERE MADE TO THE PROCEDURES FOR PRODUCING ANIMAL FEED FROM SHEEP CARCASSES, THIS PARTICULAR SCRAPPY AGENT PROVED TOUGH ENOUGH TO SURVIVE IN SUFFICIENT AMOUNTS TO INFECT COWS.

THE EPIDEMIC THEN MULTIPLIED WHEN INFECTION WAS RECYCLED FROM BSE-INFECTED CARCASSES, BEFORE THE FEEDING OF PROTEIN DERIVED FROM BOTH COWS AND SHEEP WAS BANNED IN JULY 1988. MEAT AND BONEMEAL FROM SHEEP CARCASSES HAD BEEN USED FOR CATTLE FEEDS FOR YEARS.

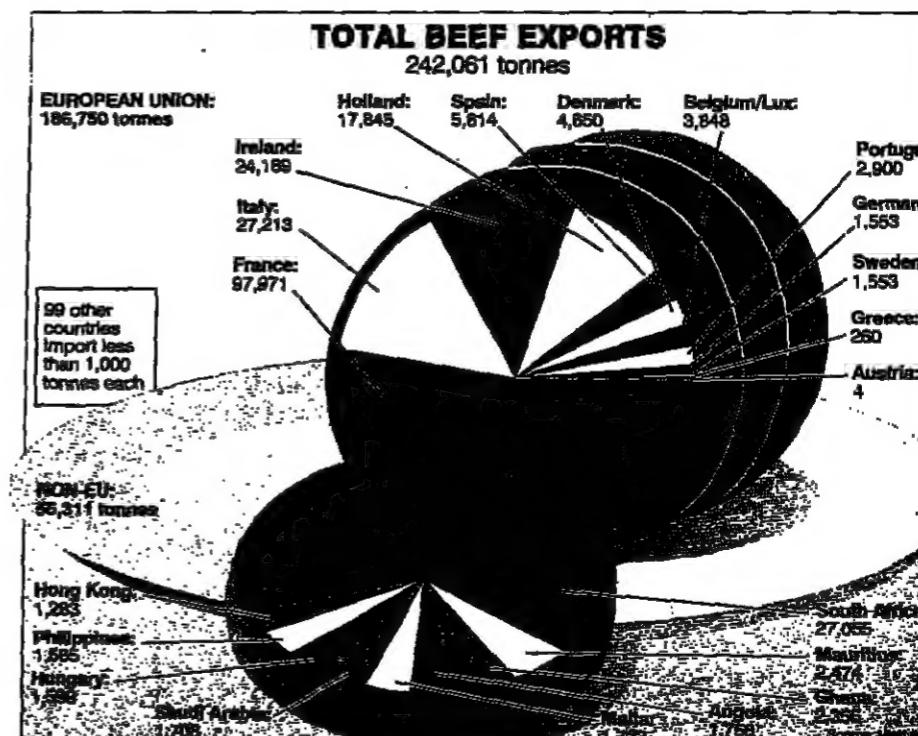
ORIGINS

BEFORE BSE APPEARED, THE EVIDENCE IS THAT IT WAS CHANGES IN RENDERING PROCEDURES, PARTLY TO ECONOMISE ON ENERGY CONSUMPTION, THAT ENABLED THE INFECTIVE AGENT TO SURVIVE.

LOWER TEMPERATURES IN THE RENDERING PROCESS AND A DECLINE IN THE USE OF SOLVENTS TO EXTRACT FATS FROM ANIMAL BONES AND OFFAL COMBINED TO CAUSE THE PROBLEM. STEAM WAS USED IN THE FINAL STAGE OF SOLVENT EXTRACTION, WHICH COULD HAVE HELPED TO DESTROY THE SCRAPPY AGENT PRESENT IN THE BONES.

NO OFFICIAL APPROVAL WAS NEEDED FOR THESE CHANGES. SCIENTISTS WERE AWARE THAT SHEEP HAD BEEN SUFFERING FROM SCRAPPY, PROBABLY FOR CENTURIES, BUT THERE WAS NO EVIDENCE THAT IT COULD BE TRANSMITTED TO HUMANS OR COWS. LIKE BSE AND CJD, SCRAPPY IS A PRION DISEASE, BUT IT APPEARED TO POSE NO THREAT TO HUMAN HEALTH.

THE EVIDENCE THAT BSE ORIGINATED FROM A SINGLE SCRAPPY STRAIN COMES FROM THE OBSERVATION THAT THE AGENT OF BSE IN ALL BRITISH COWS APPEARS TO BE IDENTICAL. WHEN INJECTED INTO MICE, SAMPLES OF THE BSE AGENT FROM ALL OVER THE COUNTRY PRODUCE THE SAME SYMPTOMS AFTER THE SAME INCUBATION PERIOD. THIS IS IN CONTRAST TO THE VARIETY OF INCUBATION PERIODS AND PATTERNS OF BRAIN DAMAGE FOUND WHEN SCRAPPY AGENT FROM DIFFERENT SHEEP FLOCKS IS USED TO INFECT THE MICE.



An export trade worth £520 million a year is in jeopardy after the decision by France, Britain's biggest market, to impose an immediate ban on imports of British beef. Belgium has followed suit and other countries may do likewise, threatening one of Britain's most successful exports in spite of intermittent concern over BSE. The alarm will undoubtedly prove much harder to quell than previous scares and Britain may this time be unable to fend off demands for a Europe-wide ban. The total value of beef exports is £520 million, of which European Union countries account for £457 million.

OUTSIDE THE EU, SOUTH AFRICA IS BY FAR THE BIGGEST DESTINATION FOR BRITISH BEEF, TAKING 27,055 TONNES. ALTHOUGH BEEF EXPORTS WERE BADLY HIT SIX YEARS AGO WHEN BSE FIRST BECAME A PUBLIC HEALTH ISSUE, THEY HAVE CLIMBED STEADILY SINCE, MORE THAN DOUBLING FROM THE 1990 LEVEL OF 110,000 TONNES. EXPORTS HAVE ALSO BEEN GREATLY HELPED BY THE DEVALUATION OF THE POUND SINCE 1992. EVEN A PARTIAL EXPORT BAN REQUIRING ALL BEEF TO BE CERTIFIED AS COMING FROM A HERD WHICH HAS NEVER HAD BSE, WOULD HAVE A BIG IMPACT. JUST OVER HALF OF ALL DAIRY HERDS HAVE HAD ONE OR MORE CASES OF BSE SINCE 1986.

Disaster brings business boom

ORGANIC FARMING

MENTED BY ORGANICALLY GROWN ORGANIC FARMS HAS SUCCEDED TO BSE, LEADING TO GROWING INTEREST IN THE BEEF PRODUCED BY THE SMALL NUMBER OF FARMERS WHO REAR LIVESTOCK IN THIS WAY. THERE ARE ONLY 200 ORGANIC BEEF PRODUCERS IN BRITAIN, ACCOUNTING FOR JUST 12,000 OF THE 3.3 MILLION CATTLE SLAUGHTERED EACH YEAR.

ONE OF THE BIGGEST IS HELEN BROWNING, WHO KEEPS 250 DAIRY COWS AND PRODUCES ABOUT 150 BEEF CATTLE A YEAR AT BISHOPSTONE IN WILTSHIRE. TO MEET ORGANIC STANDARDS, SHE HAS TO OBSERVE STRICT RULES ON WHAT SHE CAN FEED HER CATTLE. THE BULK OF THEIR DIET CONSISTS OF FORAGE, SUPPLEMENTED



Grant Reg No. 221124

Short incubation period may explain youth of victims

By NIGEL HAWKES
SCIENCE EDITOR

There is no evidence that children or young people are especially vulnerable to infection with the new form of Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease, a leading expert said yesterday. The ten cases so far identified have an average age of 27 but James Ironside, of the CJD surveillance unit at Western General Hospital in Edinburgh, said that this did not point to a greater vulnerability among the young.

"If we accept the hypothesis that these cases are caused by exposure to BSE, then if the entire population was exposed, the disease would appear first in the young because their incubation period is shorter," Dr Ironside said.

If this is correct, then as time passes older people will also start appearing with the distinctive symptoms of the new form of the disease.

Why the incubation period should be shorter in young people is not known, though it has been observed in similar diseases. In Kuru, the disease spread by cannibalism in Papua New Guinea, the youngest patient was aged five.

One possibility is simply a function of size, Dr Ironside

CJD INFECTION

said. "The nerves are shorter in children," he said. "If we assume that the causative agent has to make its way up the spinal column to the brain, it will take less time if the spine is shorter."

An alternative explanation, suggested by John Wilson, a consultant neurologist from Great Ormond Street Hospital in London, is that young people are simply more exposed to the causative agent because of their taste for fast foods, including beefburgers. "The truth is, we don't know."

Given that the new cases suggest that the infective agent can jump from cows to man, the question that will determine the number of cases is the ease with which this "species barrier" can be jumped. For years, ministers have insisted that any such jump was very unlikely; that claim must now be abandoned. But if the barrier is a high one, the number of cases might remain low.

Experiments in progress at St Mary's Hospital, Paddington, might provide an answer. The team led by John Collinge has been trying to transmit the infectious agent responsible

for the disease to mice that have been genetically engineered to carry a human brain protein.

The causative agent of all the spongiform encephalopathies — scrapie in sheep, BSE in cows, and CJD in humans — is believed to be an aberrant form of the prion protein. Normally, prions are harmless proteins found on the surface of brain cells but they can be altered into a modified form which causes the brain changes seen in the disease.

The alteration of the prion (the word stands for "proteinaceous infectious particle") may occur spontaneously, may have genetic causes, or may happen when normal prion protein comes into contact with the abnormal type — as in BSE and, it appears, CJD.

While not all experts accept the prion model of CJD, it is certainly the leading candidate. One problem is that it is difficult to explain the various strains of the prion diseases by such a simple model.



No beef at home, but Amy Adams loves burgers

Burgers remain children's school dinner favourite

BY JOANNA BALE

FACED with the choice of beefburgers or chicken pie yesterday, nine out of ten primary pupils went for the juicy quarter pounder.

Even when one curious seven-year-old asked the headmaster, who lunched with them, what all the fuss was about, the children carried on eating as he tried to explain that "some people think beef might not be safe to eat".

Tony Hawkins, head of Fairisle Junior School in Southampton, where there are 305 pupils aged seven to 11, said: "I told them that there was a question over whether beef might be safe to eat, but they all carried on eating their burgers.

"They are too young really to understand what is going on and they do love beefburgers. It's always the most popular choice."

Mr Hawkins, who has been headmaster at the school since 1983, said he had only received one phone call so far from a concerned parent about the scare. However, he expected it to be

one of the main topics of conversation at a parents' evening later that day.

He said: "It is Hampshire's policy to offer beef in schools, always with an alternative. Until that changes, we will have to carry on as we are. I still eat beef myself."

One parent, Julie Adams, 32, had already written requesting beef to be withdrawn. As she waited for Amy, 11, and Ashley, 10, she said: "I raised the matter some time last year, but was just told that my child may choose if they want it."

"I don't want them eating beef, but try getting them to eat other things when there are burgers on the menu. I haven't eaten it for two years, but they all carried on eating their burgers."

"They are too young really to understand what is going on and they do love beefburgers. It's always the most popular choice."

Mr Hawkins, who has been headmaster at the school since 1983, said he had only received one phone call so far from a concerned parent about the scare. However, he expected it to be

one of the main topics of conversation at a parents' evening later that day.

He said: "It is Hampshire's policy to offer beef in schools, always with an alternative. Until that changes, we will have to carry on as we are. I still eat beef myself."

One parent, Julie Adams, 32, had already written requesting beef to be withdrawn. As she waited for Amy, 11, and Ashley, 10, she said: "I raised the matter some time last year, but was just told that my child may choose if they want it."

"I don't want them eating beef, but try getting them to eat other things when there are burgers on the menu. I haven't eaten it for two years, but they all carried on eating their burgers."

"They are too young really to understand what is going on and they do love beefburgers. It's always the most popular choice."

Mr Hawkins, who has been headmaster at the school since 1983, said he had only received one phone call so far from a concerned parent about the scare. However, he expected it to be

one of the main topics of conversation at a parents' evening later that day.

He said: "It is Hampshire's policy to offer beef in schools, always with an alternative. Until that changes, we will have to carry on as we are. I still eat beef myself."

One parent, Julie Adams, 32, had already written requesting beef to be withdrawn. As she waited for Amy, 11, and Ashley, 10, she said: "I raised the matter some time last year, but was just told that my child may choose if they want it."

"I don't want them eating beef, but try getting them to eat other things when there are burgers on the menu. I haven't eaten it for two years, but they all carried on eating their burgers."

"They are too young really to understand what is going on and they do love beefburgers. It's always the most popular choice."

Mr Hawkins, who has been headmaster at the school since 1983, said he had only received one phone call so far from a concerned parent about the scare. However, he expected it to be

one of the main topics of conversation at a parents' evening later that day.

He said: "It is Hampshire's policy to offer beef in schools, always with an alternative. Until that changes, we will have to carry on as we are. I still eat beef myself."

One parent, Julie Adams, 32, had already written requesting beef to be withdrawn. As she waited for Amy, 11, and Ashley, 10, she said: "I raised the matter some time last year, but was just told that my child may choose if they want it."

"I don't want them eating beef, but try getting them to eat other things when there are burgers on the menu. I haven't eaten it for two years, but they all carried on eating their burgers."

"They are too young really to understand what is going on and they do love beefburgers. It's always the most popular choice."

Mr Hawkins, who has been headmaster at the school since 1983, said he had only received one phone call so far from a concerned parent about the scare. However, he expected it to be

one of the main topics of conversation at a parents' evening later that day.

He said: "It is Hampshire's policy to offer beef in schools, always with an alternative. Until that changes, we will have to carry on as we are. I still eat beef myself."

One parent, Julie Adams, 32, had already written requesting beef to be withdrawn. As she waited for Amy, 11, and Ashley, 10, she said: "I raised the matter some time last year, but was just told that my child may choose if they want it."

"I don't want them eating beef, but try getting them to eat other things when there are burgers on the menu. I haven't eaten it for two years, but they all carried on eating their burgers."

"They are too young really to understand what is going on and they do love beefburgers. It's always the most popular choice."

Mr Hawkins, who has been headmaster at the school since 1983, said he had only received one phone call so far from a concerned parent about the scare. However, he expected it to be

one of the main topics of conversation at a parents' evening later that day.

He said: "It is Hampshire's policy to offer beef in schools, always with an alternative. Until that changes, we will have to carry on as we are. I still eat beef myself."

One parent, Julie Adams, 32, had already written requesting beef to be withdrawn. As she waited for Amy, 11, and Ashley, 10, she said: "I raised the matter some time last year, but was just told that my child may choose if they want it."

"I don't want them eating beef, but try getting them to eat other things when there are burgers on the menu. I haven't eaten it for two years, but they all carried on eating their burgers."

"They are too young really to understand what is going on and they do love beefburgers. It's always the most popular choice."

Mr Hawkins, who has been headmaster at the school since 1983, said he had only received one phone call so far from a concerned parent about the scare. However, he expected it to be

one of the main topics of conversation at a parents' evening later that day.

He said: "It is Hampshire's policy to offer beef in schools, always with an alternative. Until that changes, we will have to carry on as we are. I still eat beef myself."

One parent, Julie Adams, 32, had already written requesting beef to be withdrawn. As she waited for Amy, 11, and Ashley, 10, she said: "I raised the matter some time last year, but was just told that my child may choose if they want it."

"I don't want them eating beef, but try getting them to eat other things when there are burgers on the menu. I haven't eaten it for two years, but they all carried on eating their burgers."

"They are too young really to understand what is going on and they do love beefburgers. It's always the most popular choice."

Mr Hawkins, who has been headmaster at the school since 1983, said he had only received one phone call so far from a concerned parent about the scare. However, he expected it to be

one of the main topics of conversation at a parents' evening later that day.

He said: "It is Hampshire's policy to offer beef in schools, always with an alternative. Until that changes, we will have to carry on as we are. I still eat beef myself."

One parent, Julie Adams, 32, had already written requesting beef to be withdrawn. As she waited for Amy, 11, and Ashley, 10, she said: "I raised the matter some time last year, but was just told that my child may choose if they want it."

"I don't want them eating beef, but try getting them to eat other things when there are burgers on the menu. I haven't eaten it for two years, but they all carried on eating their burgers."

"They are too young really to understand what is going on and they do love beefburgers. It's always the most popular choice."

Mr Hawkins, who has been headmaster at the school since 1983, said he had only received one phone call so far from a concerned parent about the scare. However, he expected it to be

one of the main topics of conversation at a parents' evening later that day.

He said: "It is Hampshire's policy to offer beef in schools, always with an alternative. Until that changes, we will have to carry on as we are. I still eat beef myself."

One parent, Julie Adams, 32, had already written requesting beef to be withdrawn. As she waited for Amy, 11, and Ashley, 10, she said: "I raised the matter some time last year, but was just told that my child may choose if they want it."

"I don't want them eating beef, but try getting them to eat other things when there are burgers on the menu. I haven't eaten it for two years, but they all carried on eating their burgers."

"They are too young really to understand what is going on and they do love beefburgers. It's always the most popular choice."

Mr Hawkins, who has been headmaster at the school since 1983, said he had only received one phone call so far from a concerned parent about the scare. However, he expected it to be

one of the main topics of conversation at a parents' evening later that day.

He said: "It is Hampshire's policy to offer beef in schools, always with an alternative. Until that changes, we will have to carry on as we are. I still eat beef myself."

One parent, Julie Adams, 32, had already written requesting beef to be withdrawn. As she waited for Amy, 11, and Ashley, 10, she said: "I raised the matter some time last year, but was just told that my child may choose if they want it."

"I don't want them eating beef, but try getting them to eat other things when there are burgers on the menu. I haven't eaten it for two years, but they all carried on eating their burgers."

"They are too young really to understand what is going on and they do love beefburgers. It's always the most popular choice."

Mr Hawkins, who has been headmaster at the school since 1983, said he had only received one phone call so far from a concerned parent about the scare. However, he expected it to be

one of the main topics of conversation at a parents' evening later that day.

He said: "It is Hampshire's policy to offer beef in schools, always with an alternative. Until that changes, we will have to carry on as we are. I still eat beef myself."

One parent, Julie Adams, 32, had already written requesting beef to be withdrawn. As she waited for Amy, 11, and Ashley, 10, she said: "I raised the matter some time last year, but was just told that my child may choose if they want it."

"I don't want them eating beef, but try getting them to eat other things when there are burgers on the menu. I haven't eaten it for two years, but they all carried on eating their burgers."

"They are too young really to understand what is going on and they do love beefburgers. It's always the most popular choice."

Mr Hawkins, who has been headmaster at the school since 1983, said he had only received one phone call so far from a concerned parent about the scare. However, he expected it to be

one of the main topics of conversation at a parents' evening later that day.

He said: "It is Hampshire's policy to offer beef in schools, always with an alternative. Until that changes, we will have to carry on as we are. I still eat beef myself."

One parent, Julie Adams, 32, had already written requesting beef to be withdrawn. As she waited for Amy, 11, and Ashley, 10, she said: "I raised the matter some time last year, but was just told that my child may choose if they want it."

"I don't want them eating beef, but try getting them to eat other things when there are burgers on the menu. I haven't eaten it for two years, but they all carried on eating their burgers."

"They are too young really to understand what is going on and they do love beefburgers. It's always the most popular choice."

Mr Hawkins, who has been headmaster at the school since 1983, said he had only received one phone call so far from a concerned parent about the scare. However, he expected it to be

one of the main topics of conversation at a parents' evening later that day.

He said: "It is Hampshire's policy to offer beef in schools, always with an alternative. Until that changes, we will have to carry on as we are. I still eat beef myself."

One parent, Julie Adams, 32, had already written requesting beef to be withdrawn. As she waited for Amy, 11, and Ashley, 10, she said: "I raised the matter some time last year, but was just told that my child may choose if they want it."

"I don't want them eating beef, but try getting them to eat other things when there are burgers on the menu. I haven't eaten it for two years, but they all carried on eating their burgers."

"They are too young really to understand what is going on and they do love beefburgers. It's always the most popular choice."

Mr Hawkins, who has been headmaster at the school since 1983, said he had only received one phone call so far from a concerned parent about the scare. However, he expected it to be

one of the main topics of conversation at a parents' evening later that day.

He said: "It is Hampshire's policy to offer beef in schools, always with an alternative. Until that changes, we will have to carry on as we are. I still eat beef myself."

One parent, Julie Adams, 32, had already written requesting beef to be withdrawn. As she waited for Amy, 11, and Ashley, 10, she said: "I raised the matter some time last year, but was just told that my child may choose if they want it."

"I don't want them eating beef, but try getting them to eat other things when there are burgers on the menu. I haven't eaten it for two years, but they all carried on eating their burgers."

Nurse accepts £50,000 for race prejudice

By RICHARD FORD, HOME CORRESPONDENT

A PAKISTANI-BORN nurse has won £50,000 from a National Health Service trust over allegations that she was the victim of racial discrimination and harassment.

Nargis Firdous said she had been founded for more than 12 months by her white boss at the Bethlem psychiatric hospital in Denmark Hill, south London.

Mrs Firdous, 43, a registered mental nurse earning £27,000, also complained yesterday that Unison, her union, had not taken her complaints seriously. After reaching an out-of-court settlement, Mrs Firdous, of Streatham, south London, said: "The money has compensated me to some extent but my losses are much more than £50,000. It was not an issue of winning or losing; it was a matter of principle."

Mrs Firdous took the Bethlem and Maudsley NHS Trust and Michel Fisher, her manager, to an industrial tribunal. After 11 days she accepted the £50,000 settlement.



Nargis Firdous yesterday outside the offices in London of the Commission for Racial Equality

Blunkett moves to upstage government plans

Labour seeks to double sixth-formers' workload

By JOHN O'LEARY, EDUCATION EDITOR

SIXTH-FORMERS should spend almost twice as long in the classroom to try to match the achievements of their continental counterparts, Labour said yesterday in measures designed to trump government plans to be announced next week.

The typical A-level student has about 18 hours of lessons a week, compared with 30 for courses in France and Germany. Labour wants to bridge the gap with new programmes to broaden the curriculum.

David Blunkett, the Shadow Education Secretary, announcing the *Aiming High* policy document, said pupils might spend part of the extra time on supervised use of high-tech learning packages, rather than formal lessons. Bryan Davies, Labour spokesman on further and higher education, said students were more extended at GCSE than at A level, particularly if sixth-formers took a limited number of subjects. Sixth-formers tak-

ing A levels or vocational qualifications should learn "core skills" required by employers, such as communication, advanced numeracy and the use of information technology.

But David Summerscale, headmaster of Westminster School, where sixth-formers average more than three As at A level on six hours' tuition a week per subject, said students needed time for independent study, to master learning for themselves. David Hart, of the National Association of Head Teachers, said Labour risked appearing to tell teachers and students "that the nanny state knows best".

Tony Evans, headmaster of Portsmouth Grammar School and chairman of the Headmasters' and Headmistresses' Conference, welcomed the scope for breadth at A level but added: "It is, of course, a fallacy to believe that the more time you spend on something the better the results."

Several of Labour's propos-



Blunkett: announced Labour policy document

als mirror reforms expected to be put forward next week by Sir Ron Dearing, the Government's senior curriculum adviser. Among them are an Advanced Diploma linking academic and vocational qualifications, work-related courses in further education colleges for some 14-year-olds, and a move to raise the status of advanced

vocational courses by calling them Applied A Levels. The diploma would be awarded for a minimum of two A levels or a General National Vocational Qualification and success in the core skills.

In another echo of Sir Ron's plans, high-flyers could take modules of university courses while still at school.

Pupils aged under 16 might spend a day or half a day at further education college on job-related topics without sacrificing the national curriculum. Mr Blunkett said. He admitted that colleges would not be failing over themselves to take in disaffected 14-year-olds who currently spent their time playing truant.

Peter Smith, of the Association of Teachers and Lecturers, gave warning that the scheme could become an "excuse for licensed truancy". But John Dunford, of the Secondary Heads Association, said the courses could motivate young people.

Education, page 36

ALLIANCE & LEICESTER GIRO CURRENT ACCOUNT £20 CHALLENGE



£20 to spend at Marks & Spencer

Bank the way that suits you

Open a Current Account now and you'll get £20 worth of Marks & Spencer gift vouchers

It's a simple challenge. You can get £20 worth of Marks & Spencer gift vouchers, when you open an Alliance & Leicester Giro Current Account with £200* before 31 May 1996.

We'll send your vouchers to you - and you'll enjoy all these banking benefits:

- Bank at almost 20,000 Post Offices.
- Bank by telephone, 24 hours a day, 365 days a year.
- Withdraw cash at 8,500 LINK machines.
- Debit, cash and cheque guarantee cards. (Subject to status.)
- Bank by post - postage is free.

To qualify for your £20 worth of vouchers, request your application form today. Call us free, 24 hours a day, or complete and return the coupon below.

Call FREE today 0800 41 2214

Quote ref: TBD

Track down an Alliance & Leicester Giro Current Account today

Please send me full details of the Alliance & Leicester Giro Current Account, including how to open an account, my application form and how to claim £20 worth of Marks & Spencer gift vouchers.

Ref: TBD

Send to: Alliance & Leicester Giro, FREPOST CV2217, Stratford Upon Avon, CV37 9BR. (No stamp needed.)

Mr/Mrs/Ms/Other (Please state) Initials Surname

Address Postcode

Home Tel. No. (Including STD code)

Date of Birth / / Signature

From time to time we may send you information on Alliance & Leicester Giro products and services. If you do not wish to receive further communications from Alliance & Leicester Giro, please tick here.



High Street banking at your local Post Office

* Offer is valid only when you phone the above number or send off this coupon for an application form. Application forms acquired from Post Offices are not valid for this offer. Once your account has been opened and funded with at least £200, return the claim form, before 31 May 1996, and £20 worth of Marks & Spencer gift vouchers will be sent to you. Only one payment of £20 worth of vouchers will be made per person. Applicants for an Alliance & Leicester Giro Current Account must be aged 15 or over. All applications are subject to status. Delta Card and £50 cheque guarantee card are only available if aged 18 or over (subject to status). Alliance & Leicester Giro account holders are depositors with the Society. No membership rights in the Society are conferred on depositors nor do they have the right to attend meetings of the Society or vote on resolutions. Alliance & Leicester Building Society, Principal Office: 49 Park Lane, London W1Y 4EQ.

Vitamin E cuts the likelihood of a heart attack



HIGH doses of vitamin E can reduce the risk of a coronary by 75 per cent in patients with heart disease, research has found.

A team of Cambridge University medical scientists led by Professor Morris Brown and Dr Malcolm Mitchinson has been studying the effect of vitamin E supplements on 2,000 patients with heart disease. Their findings, published in *The Lancet*, show that vitamin E supplements are more effective than aspirin or cholesterol-lowering drugs in preventing heart disease.

Many fatty foods, including butter, peanuts, sunflower and soya oil, are rich in vitamin E but all have a high calorific value and some are not suitable for cardiac patients.

However, not even the strictest dietitian would object to a patient with heart disease eating olives, mackerel, tuna, herrings and salmon, all foods with a naturally high vitamin E content, and the diet would be even better if the salmon was accompanied by asparagus, the vegetable richest in vitamin E.

However, even if a cardiac patient was to have a traditional Mediterranean diet supplemented with salmon and asparagus at every meal, they would not achieve levels of vitamin E high enough to alter the risk of heart disease to the same extent that has been demonstrated by the Cambridge experiment. The

daily intake of vitamin E in a well-balanced diet is between 10.4 and 13.4 international units.

Professor Brown's and Dr Mitchinson's patients were given between 400 and 800 IU daily. When taking vitamin E at these doses, the risk of a heart attack was no greater for one of their cardiac patients than it would be for people who were not suffering from any detectable heart complaint.

A vitamin-enriched diet has been scorned by more traditional doctors ever since vitamins were discovered. The accepted teaching is that supplements are unnecessary if someone's diet is well-balanced and, in the case of some vitamins, can be dangerous.

No vitamin has been more controversial than vitamin E. Its value has been understood only since study of the ability of the anti-oxidant vitamins, of which E is one, to prevent atherosclerosis (furring of the arteries).

Vitamin E supplements are particularly important for heavy drinkers as alcohol depresses levels of the vitamin, as do iron or vitamin A supplements. As vitamin E is fat-soluble, it should be taken with food. Earlier research has suggested that the vitamin is more beneficial if the daily allowance is taken in several doses.

DR THOMAS STUTTAFORD

STATE OF VICTORIA, AUSTRALIA

ELECTION

SATURDAY 30 MARCH 1996

How to Vote in Person

If you are travelling throughout Europe, Asia or the United States, you may vote at a Postal Voting Centre at selected Australian Embassies.

For the nearest Postal Voting Centre, telephone Victoria House, London on 0171 836 2656, or enquire at any Australian Embassy. In the UK, you may vote in person during weekdays between 9.30am and 4.30pm at Victoria House, until 4.30pm on Friday 29 March 1996.

Please note there will be no voting facilities at Victoria House on election day, Saturday 30 March.

How to Vote by Post

You may apply for postal voting material to be sent to an address nominated by you. Applications are available from Victoria House by telephoning 0171 836 2656.

Electoral Roll Enquiries

The roll for the 1996 State Election closed on 8 March 1996.

Victorian electors may make enquiries in person regarding their enrolment at Victoria House.

Australian Embassies will not be able to answer enquiries regarding enrolment for the 1996 Victorian Election. All enquiries should be made to Victorian House.

Iain Maclean
Postal Voting Officer
London

Victoria House
Melbourne Place
Strand
London WC2B 4LG
Tel: 0171 836 2656



The nuts and bolts of constructing a car, is far more involved than the mere nuts and bolts.

How the components are put together is what really makes the difference.

Which is why the Honda Accord is so much more advanced than other cars in its class.

And the reason other manufacturers can't build a machine like it is because, unlike us, they don't all build the machines that construct and assemble their cars.

In fact, on a recent visit to our factory, a rival manufacturer was so impressed with the Honda developed 'General Welder' (a piece of technological machinery capable

of 300 perfectly aligned welds in 10 seconds) that he had his picture taken beside it.

Such is our obsession with precision that the panel fit is accurate to within the minutest of degrees all the way around the car. That means that you won't see inconsistencies in the size of the gaps around the bodywork where they are wide at one point and narrow at another.

So the only whistling you might hear, as you cruise along the motorway, will be from you. Gauge it for yourself by looking at the gaps, say, around the boot of another make of car, and compare them to those of an Accord.

However, there are some tests we'd rather you leave

for us to gauge ourselves. Honda are one of the few car manufacturers to crash test their cars with a full petrol tank.

This gives us a more realistic idea of what can happen in the circumstances of an accident.

Few cars have ever crashed with an empty tank of petrol which, when full and travelling at 30mph, can add as much as the weight of two extra passengers to the vehicle.

We also test the effectiveness of the car's rigid back seats, which are reinforced to lessen the risk of injury from luggage being thrown forward on impact.

So rigorous have we been in our development that the Accord was deemed to be the safest car in a crash in a

recently published report by the Department of Transport.

Of course we understand that the most important test of all, is for you to give the Accord a thorough looking over at the showroom.

An undertaking that your nearest Honda dealer will gladly assist you with by showing you the range from the 1.6i to the 2.2i V-TEC with prices ranging from £14,285 to £21,785 including delivery and 12 months' road tax.

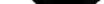
Or if you'd prefer, call 0345 159 159 for details of your nearest dealer or a brochure. It will give you that chance to get a measure of the Accord for yourself.

THE NEW ACCORD FROM HONDA

PLAY THE NATIONAL LOTTERY WITHOUT LIFTING A FINGER

New 'LUCKY DIP'™ is t

New **LUCKY DIP** is the easiest way to play The National Lottery. You don't have to pick any numbers yourself, the terminal picks a random set for you. It costs the same as usual and it's available now. Simply ask your retailer, or mark the 'L. Dip' box on one or more boards on your playslip. For more information, pick up the 'How To Play' leaflet in-store.

IT COULD BE YOU.  **THE NATIONAL LOTTERY™**

PLAYERS MUST BE 16 OR OVER. The National Lottery is subject to The National Lottery Games Rules and Procedures. © Camelot Group plc.

Women-only classes in driving safety break equality law

BY ADRIAN LEE

A GARAGE that runs car-safety classes for women only was told yesterday it was breaking the law by excluding men. The move, which will have implications for a variety of organisations, angered women's groups.

Local authorities, clubs and police who run safety, car maintenance and fitness classes could all be affected.

In a statement, the Equal Opportunities Commission said women-only classes breached Section 29 of the Sexual Discrimination Act of 1975. Anyone running them could "lay themselves open to a legal challenge".

The Department for Education and Employment confirmed that classes for women only broke the law. A spokeswoman said the law was not clear on organisations that implied by the titles or classes that men were not welcome, as there had been no test cases. Organisations could not get round the law by offering

separate classes for men and women.

The dispute began when Sandicifice Motors, a Ford dealership in Ilkeston, Derbyshire, sought clarification on a promotion which included cost-price petrol and cheap car-servicing for women drivers.

During discussions, the Equal Opportunities Commission advised the garage that its women's workshops, run for five years, could also be illegal.

The RAC, which has run "women's workshops" for 100,000 female drivers over the past five years, said it would review its classes but described the advice from the commission as "nonsense". Its workshops, begun after the murder of Marie Wilks on the M50 in 1988, were unashamedly aimed at women. Men were welcome but, a spokesman said: "We feel it is important to keep the word 'women' in the title so women don't get put off." A spokesman for Sandicifice Motors said: "We were told we were breaking the law and the EOC said it could challenge them itself if we went ahead. It is ridiculous."

The classes featured safety videos and a lecture by a crime prevention officer. "Women don't want men there," said the spokeswoman.

Fiona Brown, of the Suzy Lamplugh Trust, set up after Miss Lamplugh, an estate agent, was abducted, said: "It is most unhelpful. These classes are addressed to people who want to feel more secure when driving alone."

Anne Peck, of the Centre for Independent Transport Research, which has studied women's attitudes to safety while travelling, said: "Women ought to have a choice. Some women have had experiences which deter them from attending classes where men are present. A number of studies have shown there is a place for women-only spaces."

Cambridge dows oppose tobacco firm's £1.6m gift

BY DAVID CHARTER, EDUCATION CORRESPONDENT

A £1.6 million donation may be turned down by Cambridge University because of a dispute about the ethics of accepting tobacco company profits.

Senior members of the university are said to be "wobbling" over the proposed donation from BAT to set up the Sir Patrick Sheehy Professorship of International Relations, in honour of its former chairman. The money would also provide two post-doctoral posts, scholarships for overseas students and bursaries.

Academics opposed to the sponsorship hope to force a vote of all 3,000 full university members if the money is accepted at a university council meeting next term. It has been recommended by the general board of the faculties but strong opposition emerged at a private debate this week.

Earlier this month Oxford dows criticised a £350,000 donation from Dr Gert-Rudolf Flick, the grandson of a prominent Nazi industrialist, to set up a professorship at Balliol College.

Sir Keith Peters, Regius Professor of Physic, told the private meeting of Cambridge academics that although such a large contribution would be helpful, the moral cost would

C&G CHANNEL ISLANDS LIMITED Investment Rates

Effective from 22 March 1996

C&G Guernsey 90

	Gross % Annual	Gross % Monthly*
£100,000 or more	6.75	6.55
£25,000 - £99,999	6.50	6.31
£10,000 - £24,999	6.25	6.08

C&G Guernsey Gold

	Gross % Annual	Gross % Monthly*
£250,000 or more	6.15	5.98
£100,000 - £249,999	5.85	5.70
£25,000 - £99,999	5.60	5.46
£10,000 - £24,999	5.10	4.98

C&G Guernsey Bond

	Gross % (applied)	Gross % (CAR)
12-month Bond	5.65	5.65
6-month Bond	5.28	5.35

*Monthly rates, when compounded, equal the annual rates shown.

†Compounded Annual Rate when interest added to account. Rates are variable.

Details of rates are available by calling the special RateLine on 01481 718020 or from any branch of Cheltenham & Gloucester plc. Notice of change to terms and conditions: from 1 April 1996 rates will not be included with transaction advice.

C&G Channel Islands Limited

C&G Channel Islands Ltd, P.O. Box 262, St. Peter Port, Guernsey, Channel Islands GY1 3QS. Telephone 01481 715422. Fax 01481 715496.

C&G Channel Islands Limited is incorporated, and has its principal place of business, in Guernsey. Registered Office 2/3 Rue Du Pre, St. Peter Port, Guernsey. It is a wholly-owned subsidiary of Cheltenham & Gloucester plc which is registered in England and Wales. The ultimate parent company of Cheltenham & Gloucester plc is registered in Scotland. C&G Channel Islands Limited is registered as a deposit taker by the Guernsey Financial Services Commission under the Banking Supervision (Banking) Law 1994, as amended.

Deposits made with C&G Channel Islands Limited are now covered by the Deposit Protection Scheme under the UK Banking Act 1987. The reserves and paid up capital of C&G Channel Islands Limited exceed £1 million. Copies of the most recent audited accounts are available on request.



Lifeboatmen struggling with Queenie, the rapidly growing 7ft conger eel that they have helped to return to its spawning ground in the Azores

RNLI berth aids an expectant eel

BY A STAFF REPORTER

A LIFEBOAT crew has come to the aid of a 7ft conger eel. The 70lb fish, named Queenie, was given a lift at the start of its journey to the Azores, spawning grounds of the conger eel, by the crew of the *Edmund and Joan White*.

The eel had been at the Dove Marine Laboratory at Cullercoats, Tyne and Wear, for six years after being caught in a fisherman's nets. When it outgrew its tank the eel was taken to Tynemouth Sea Life Centre, before staff realised the reason for its rapid growth was that it was full of eggs.

The only place it could safely release them is in the deep spawning grounds of the Azores, 4,000 metres below the surface, where the pressure will force the millions of eggs from its body. Spawning will be Queenie's last task because it will die after releasing the eggs.

Justin Measures, Sea Life's senior aquarist, said: "If we had just put her in the sea from the shore there is a good chance she would have been washed back. But the lifeboat gave her a fighting chance of making it to the Azores in safety."

Raymond Taylor, the lifeboat secretary at Cullercoats, said: "We were happy to do a good turn for the Sea Life centre because it has always helped us with fundraising."



offshore and slipped it back into the sea where it will join other migrating eels on a journey that will last until late spring.

Justin Measures, Sea Life's senior aquarist, said: "If we had just put her in the sea from the shore there is a good chance she would have been washed back. But the lifeboat gave her a fighting chance of making it to the Azores in safety."

Raymond Taylor, the lifeboat secretary at Cullercoats, said: "We were happy to do a good turn for the Sea Life centre because it has always helped us with fundraising."

Get Working Girl on video



for just £2* only
in The Times

See tomorrow's paper for details



<http://www.the-times.co.uk>

*Plus 89p postage and packaging

CHANGING TIMES

Howard to reveal third annual drop in recorded crime

BY STEWART TENDER AND RICHARD FORD

RECORDED crime in England and Wales fell by about 2 per cent last year, boosting the Government's claim to be curbing criminal behaviour.

The third successive annual drop will be hailed by Michael Howard as evidence that, for the time being, the cycle of rapidly rising crime has been broken. The figures will show, however, that offences rose during the second half of the year after a significant drop in the first six months.

Ministers will be anxious that the trend has not continued into this year, and there will also be ministerial concern at a rise in recorded violent crimes.

The figures, to be published next week, will show a further decline in vehicle crime, theft and household burglary. The decline in burglary is attributed, in part, to police activity such as Operation Bumblebee. The Home Secretary believes increased use of technology, particularly the

spread of closed-circuit television, is an important factor.

There is concern, however, that the decline in crime may have ended. Recorded crime fell 5 per cent in 1994 and 1 per cent in 1993, having reached a record level in 1992. One Whitehall source said: "It has plateaued out. It is getting much harder to produce the falls that the Government wants to see."

The recorded crime statistics are based on the number of offences reported to police. An alternative view is given by the British Crime Survey, based on interviews with a representative sample of 10,000 people: it has consistently shown a much higher rate than the police statistics.

Harry Fletcher, assistant general secretary of the National Association of Probation Officers, said last night: "Recorded crime figures must be treated with caution.

"The fall in crime could be because police recording

methods have changed and fewer people are reporting crime because they do not think the police will catch anyone." He added that the underlying trend could be starting to rise again.

The number of arrests declined last year although some individual forces showed large rises in the number of people detained. In Northumbria, which Mr Howard is expected to visit soon, arrests were up 25 per cent and overall the force has shown a drop in crime for the past five years.

Durham is understood to have recorded a drop of about 11 per cent in overall crime and a 23 per cent decline in violent offences. The Metropolitan Police will also report a further fall.

Merseyside and Cambridgeshire are expected to report large increases in crime. Officials at the Home Office attributed the rise in Cambridgeshire to a new recording system.



Dame Stella Rimington believes that the renewed terrorist campaign presents a grave security risk

New head of MI5 must tackle IRA terror threat

BY MICHAEL EVANS
DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

DAME Stella Rimington hands over her post as Director-General of MI5 next week as the renewed IRA bombing campaign poses a grave challenge to her successor.

Stephen Lander, 48, whose appointment as Dame Stella's replacement was announced last November, is expected to devote much of his time to surveillance of suspected IRA members on the mainland and protection of possible targets for assassination. Government officials who played a crucial role in formulating John Major's latest peace initiatives in Northern Ireland are known to be under 24-hour armed police guard.

The most recent respite from IRA bombs, after the Docklands explosion last month and the three subsequent bombs, has given no grounds for believing that the renewed campaign was merely a brief flurry to accelerate the peace process. Military bases and other facilities that appeared on the list found at the Lewisham home of

counter-terrorism at MI5, will be expected to launch a renewed effort to forestall any further mainland attacks.

Dame Stella is acknowledged both within the Security Service and outside to have been a highly successful director-general. By adopting a public profile, giving lectures about the service and its aims and publishing brochures, she has helped to remove longstanding suspicions about MI5's role in Whitehall.

Her next job has not yet been announced. She had been considered for the post of Master of Emmanuel College, Cambridge, to succeed Lord St John of Fawsley, but narrowly failed to be chosen. She is known to want a job outside government but may be offered a new security role in the Cabinet Office.

□ A detective who helped to spearhead the secret war against the IRA after being severely maimed in a terrorist bombing died from cancer yesterday. Chief Superintendent Frank Murray, 51, refused to quit the force when he lost a leg, an arm and an eye in the attack 20 years ago.



Lander: former director of counter-terrorism

Edward O'Brien, the IRA bomber who was killed in the Aldwych bus explosion, remains on heightened alert.

Dame Stella, 60, who succeeded in persuading Michael Howard, the Home Secretary, to allow MI5 to help the police in combating organised crime, has found herself in the past few weeks devoting most of her energies towards countering the new IRA threat. Mr Lander, who is a former director of Irish

Potatoes dominate starchy options

BY ROBIN YOUNG

STARCHY foods are the basis of a healthy diet, and though pasta and rice have gained popularity, potatoes are still the favourite British choice.

Retailers are obliged to identify the variety of the potatoes they offer for sale. Potatoes are the only fruit or vegetable to which this rule applies, so customers should check each variety's suitability for different purposes, because they vary widely.

Promotions include:
Asda: Bell's whisky 70cl for £11.99, sparkling Chardonnay 75cl for £3.99, chicken tikka 400g for £1.49.
Budgens: cucumbers 55p each, Scottish smoked salmon 200g for £3.99, Sara Lee

Man bailed over death in Spain

A man was remanded on bail by Bow Street magistrates yesterday accused of killing a 14-year-old girl in a road accident in southern Spain seven years ago.

Peter Dawson-Ball, 42, of St Martin's, Guernsey, is charged with the manslaughter of Lizianna Piana, whose family lived on Gibraltar, in 1989, within the jurisdiction of the Central Criminal Court.

Charges dropped

Three men arrested in connection with an arson attack last month on the car of Paddy Ashdown, the Liberal Democrat leader, at his home in Norton sub Hamdon, Somerset, will not face charges, Avon and Somerset Police said.

Tanker to go

The damaged supertanker Sea Empress, which spilled 72,000 tonnes of oil on the South Wales coast last month, is to be moved next week to Belfast for repair. The Harland and Wolff shipyard beat off international competition for the contract.

Six life terms

Scott Newell, 24, a barman of Bermondsey, south London, who murdered Judy Newell, 35, and her five children by setting fire to their fourth-floor flat, was given six life sentences at the Old Bailey. The Newell family had not been his intended target.

Beggar jailed

Andrew Sophocles, 28, a beggar who had been under the influence of drink and drugs, was jailed for four years by Southwark Crown Court. He attacked a passer-by in Camden, north London, with a broken bottle after his plea for change was refused.

Show thawed off

A matinée performance of a skating spectacular at the Apollo theatre, Oxford, was cancelled after vandals tampered with ice-making equipment. The 2in-thick ice, which began to melt, was refrozen to allow the evening performance to go ahead.

WEEKEND SHOPPING

chocolate gateau 340g for 99p. Co-op: Dolmio hot and spicy lasagne 350g for £1.09. Millerice 200g for 29p. Meadow Birds coffee 100g for £1.49. Harrods: turkey breast 100g for £1.65, free range loin of pork 1kg for £6.49.

Iceland: turkey cheese burgers 4 for 99p. Mediterranean fish bake 300g for 99p.

Marks & Spencer: frozen Black Forest gateau 540g for £1.99, four hot cross buns 65p, fresh salad 600g for £1.99.

Morrison: fresh ham & mushroom tagliatelli 340g for £1.29. Onken Biopac peach yogurt 500g for 79p.

Safeway: Bulgarian Cabernet Sauvignon 75cl for £2.29, rump steak 1kg for £7.99, skinned haddock cutlets 1kg for £6.79.

Sainsbury's: assorted biscuits 400g for 69p, scampi in crispy crumb 340g for £2.65, steak cut chips 1816g £1.49.

Somerfield: Jaffa oranges 1kg for 99p, watercress 75g for 75p, traditional sausages 454g for 79p, unsmoked back bacon 500g for £2.49.

Tesco: wholewheat deluxe muesli 1.5kg for £1.99, shepherd's pie 709g for 99p, Chilean white wine 75cl for £2.79.

Waitrose: Empire apples 1.25kg for £1.49, large avocados 75p each, Belgian truffles 200g for £2.95.

Sea eagles approach the test of survival

Packed.

The new high-spec Carina E 1.8 CD £14,275.

Stuffed.

SAITO TOYOTA

REGULATED ROAD RISK LICENCE AND A DELIVERY CHARGE APPLYING VARIOUS EXCLUSIONS. EXCLUDING CARINA E 1.8 CS DR AUTO URBAN 53.7 (9.2) MPH (7.4) 5 MPH (4.6).

They bully me because I am a different colour.

we just wanted you to know.

Charity Reg. No. 221124

VAT tribunal refuses to allow fanciers any exemption after ruling that birds do all the work

Pigeon racing is no sport of Queens, says taxman

By PAUL WILKINSON

BRITISH pigeon fanciers — a group including the Queen — were told yesterday that their passion is not a sport. Because the bird does the work, the VAT-man has decided pigeon racing is merely a hobby and does not qualify for the tax exemption applied to other sports.

The decision, handed down by a Customs and Excise tribunal in Bristol, has staggered representatives of Britain's 80,000 fanciers, who include Jack Duckworth from the television soap *Coronation Street*. They point to a host of other activities that do qualify, including pool, art-gling and yoga.

John Brown, president of the North of England Horning Union, said: "I don't see how they can regard angling as a sport. You just sit there holding a stick over a bit of water. Pigeon racing is far more demanding. People take it very seriously. We all talk to our birds and a few wives feel



Jack Duckworth of *Coronation Street* fame and the Queen are both enthusiastic pigeon fanciers

their men love their pigeons more than them."

In all 114 activities are exempt from VAT, from aikido to yoga. Greyhound racing is not, but horse racing and motor sports are. Among the less strenuous events regarded as sports for VAT purposes are

ballooning, baton-twirling and bowls.

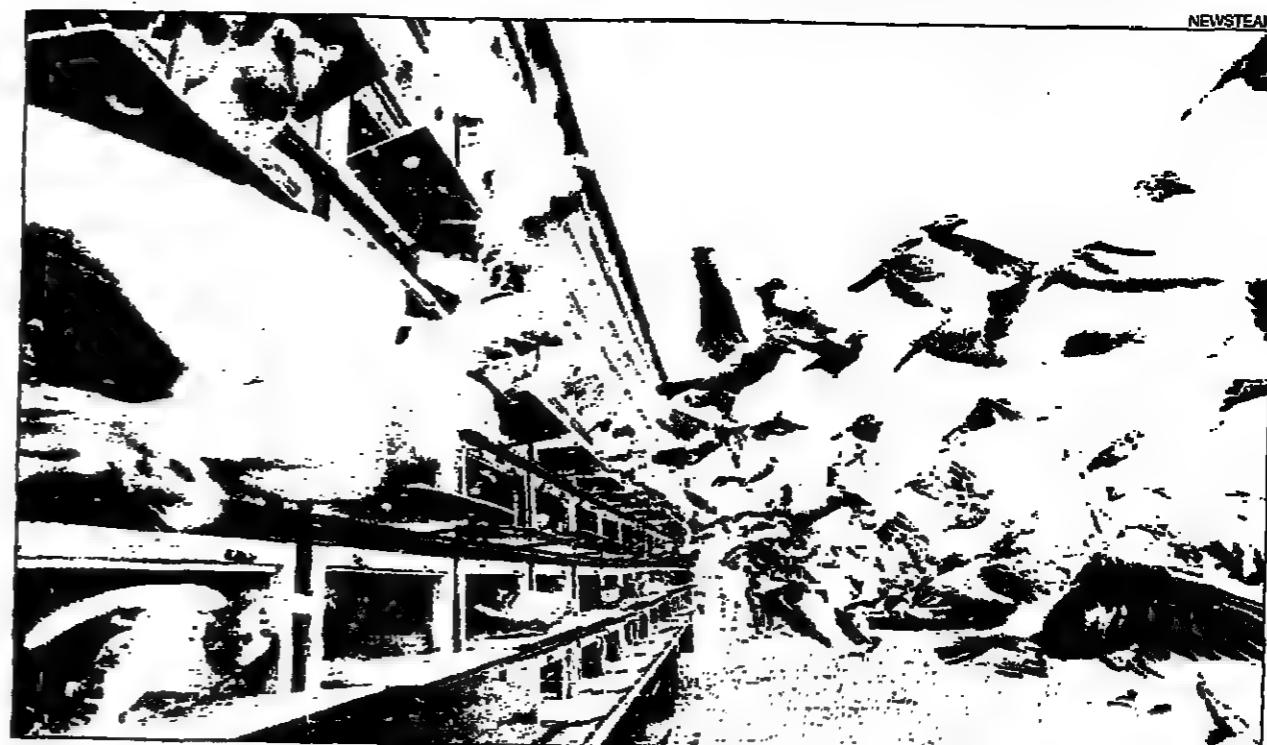
Fanciers meet in two weeks to decide whether they should take their case to the European Court of Justice. They believe they have a good case as pigeon fanciers in Ireland, Holland and Belgium are

exempt. The case was brought by the Royal Pigeon Racing Association, whose patron is the Queen, after a change in the law allowed sports club members to claim thousands of pounds in VAT refunds on membership fees, backdated to 1990. British bird fanciers pay about £30,000 VAT on annual subscriptions.

Major Edward Camilleri, the association's general manager, argued that pigeon racing was physical enough to be classed as a sport. Preparation for a race involved feeding, cleaning, driving and lifting birdcages weighing up to 40lb.

In some sports recognised by the VAT commissioners — including gliding and yoga — there was little physical activity. However, a Sports Council representative suggested that sport should "encourage people in acquiring physical skills and undertaking physical effort". The council does not recognise pigeon racing.

The tribunal ruled: "The individual must be taking part in the sport, which we inter-



Flying start: breeders say pigeon racing is physically demanding as other sports for the rival owners

pret to mean the main sporting activity and not some ancillary activity. We appreciate individuals do take part in some important steps, such as recording the time of arrival,

but this is not the main sporting activity, which is the race itself. The activities of the

owner are purely incidental."

Bill Stokoe, a VAT specialist with the accountants KPMG, said: "The law has gone mad. No official could convince me that fanciers do not regard pigeon racing as a sport."

A racing association spokesman said: "Obviously we are

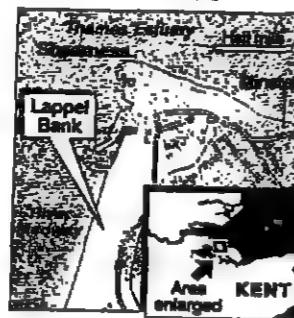
disappointed, particularly when you consider some of the activities that are classed as sports." Mr Brown, 59, a retired council official from Washington, Tyne and Wear, and a pigeon racer for 50 years, said: "To say this is not physical enough to be a sport

is ridiculous. At the end of race day I'm a physical wreck. Members can spend six hours a day on their birds. They have to be fed and groomed and their lofts cleaned out. It's very physically demanding."

Leading article, page 19

Gummer wrong to let wetland become car depot

By NICK NUTTALL
ENVIRONMENT CORRESPONDENT



BRITAIN acted illegally in allowing part of a wildlife haven to be concreted over for a car depot, according to a ruling from the European Court of Justice yesterday. The court's Advocate General, whose opinions are usually agreed by the full court, found Britain guilty in what could be a landmark decision.

Lappet Bank on the River Medway near Sheerness in Kent was part of a "wetland of international importance" protected under EU law, and home to rare birds, the Advocate General said. It was wrong for the Government to have excluded half of the bank from the Special Protection Area listing under the European Union's Birds Directive, thereby favouring economic interests over the interests of the environment, he said.

In 1993 John Gummer, the Environment Secretary, decided that some of the bank, which is home to species such as the curlew and grey plover, was needed to support the expansion of Sheerness. Half of the bank has now been turned into a site where cars imported from Japan are stockpiled.

News of the decision came as an alliance of conservation groups unveiled a report claiming that nearly every aspect of the British environment was deteriorating. The second Green Gauge survey of data, published by a coalition of green groups including the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds and the World Wide Fund for Nature, showed that species such as the skylark and song thrush

were vanishing because their traditional habitats were being destroyed.

Rural land was being built

at the rate of more than 11,000 hectares a year, while vehicle use continued to rise, contributing to the problem of climate change. Meanwhile, overfishing was leading to the loss of traditional stocks such as haddock and cod.

But it was not all bad news, the report's authors said. The water quality of many rivers had improved within the past ten years, and the level of awareness of transport issues, such as roadbuilding, had increased largely thanks to protests such as that against the Newbury bypass, it was claimed.

The environmentalist Jonathon Porritt told a news conference to launch the report, which the coalition hopes to introduce to schools: "There is no cause for celebration despite a considerably higher level of public awareness and political dialogue about environmental issues. Too many of the indicators are moving in the wrong direction.

"Our environment is getting worse, even the Government's figures say so. There must now be immediate action to stem the tide of environmental degradation in the UK."

Sea eagles approach the test of survival

By GILLIAN BOWDITCH



Sea eagle chicks were reintroduced in 1975

CONSERVATIONISTS trying to reintroduce the white-tailed sea eagle to Britain believe that the first chicks to rear in the wild will start to produce young of their own this year or next.

There are now ten breeding pairs in Scotland, all of them introduced as chicks from Norway, and the first eggs of the season are beginning to hatch. In the next three months the project team from Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH) and the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds will know whether they have beaten the record of seven chicks successfully reared in one year.

The reintroduction programme began in 1975 when chicks from Norway were released on the island of Rhum: 82 birds were released on the island over 11 years. The second phase of the project started three years ago and so far 20 young birds have been released into the wild at a secret site in the extreme north of Scotland.

A total of 46 chicks have hatched in the wild but none

of those chicks, which take at least five years to mature, has raised young of its own, the crucial proof that the Scottish population of sea eagles can support themselves.

Last year a wild-bred bird teamed up with a released sea eagle, and ornithologists believe they could breed this year for the first time.

Kevin Duffy, sea eagle project officer with SNH, says he

is optimistic that there will be 20 breeding pairs in Scotland by 2003. During the next century Britain's largest bird of prey, with a wingspan of almost 10ft, may be a common sight in the Highlands.

The last indigenous female sea eagle was shot on Shetland in 1918.

The story of the sea eagles

will be told tonight at 8pm in BBC1's *Operation Survival*, in Scotland only.

"You're not sure your health insurance will pay my bill, are you?"

To save money, a lot of people have bought budget health insurance schemes. Inevitably, this has meant compromising on the level of cover. Until now. Because Princenare, a new policy from Prime Health, actually provides comprehensive cover at a budget price.

So, if you're buying a policy, ask yourself: does it cover out-patient treatment, like specialist consultations? Does it give you immediate access to private treatment? Does it guarantee full payment of surgeons' and anaesthetists' fees? Will it pay for alternative medicine?

Princenare gives you all this, and we'll even give you an increasing scale of no-claims discounts up to 50%.

In fact we believe Princenare offers you, the customer, the best deal on the market.

Why not switch immediately? You can be covered the moment you contact our Customer Advisers. The number is 0800 77 99 55. Call now, because nothing is more important than your health.

Prime Health
A member of the Standard Life Group



Call Prime Health on 0800 77 99 55, or fill in the coupon.

Title _____ First name _____
PLEASE USE BLOCK CAPITALS

Surname _____ Date of birth _____

Middle name _____

Postcode _____

Phone (inc. STD code) Day _____ Evening _____

Date of birth of the eldest person requiring cover _____

Cover required: Single Married Family Single parent family

If you already have private medical insurance please state renewal date _____

Please post to (no stamp required) Prime Health Limited, FREEPOST, SK 3042 Stockport, Cheshire SK2 6TG.

MO1 578 NG

Ulster parties are likely to keep their frustration in check

The only point that really matters about Northern Ireland politics is that all-party talks will start on Monday, June 10, and that Sinn Fein will only be allowed to participate if the IRA restores its ceasefire. Everything else is secondary. Yesterday's statement by the Prime Minister on the method of elections to be held on May 30 is a further manoeuvre to this end.

But then most politics in Northern Ireland is about procedure rather than substance — means rather than ends. The parties jostle for position and the British and Irish Governments make

statements aimed to keep various Unionist and nationalist groups on board. It is often a recipe for misunderstanding and recrimination along the way, as has amply been seen this year, with, first, the SDLP, then the Ulster Unionists, and now again the SDLP, feeling aggrieved.

The British Government's calculation is that, having set a firm date for the start of all-party talks, the main constitutional parties will go along with the compromises inevitably involved. Ministers have taken a calculated, and probably correct, gamble that the SDLP will put to one side its further manoeuvre to this end.

But then most politics in Northern Ireland is about procedure rather than substance — means rather than ends. The parties jostle for position and the British and Irish Governments make

HIDDEN OPPORTUNITIES

resentment at the Government's behaviour and its objections to the creation of the forum.

Relations between the Government and the SDLP are publicly strained at present. It is not just the long-standing tensions between John Major and John Hume. Yesterday Mr Hume did not intervene but sat looking very unhappy. He left Seamus Mallon, his deputy, to press the SDLP's protest in unusually strong terms. This was striking because Mr

Mallon and Mr Major have had reasonable working relations.

It is highly unlikely that the SDLP, or Sinn Fein for that matter, will boycott the elections. But their attitude, and that of the Irish Government, will depend on the issues left unresolved yesterday. In particular, the SDLP wants no watering of the proposed ground rules for substantive all-party negotiations, covering structure, format and agenda, which were issued at the end of last week and annoyed the Ulster Unionists.

The SDLP has also pressed the case for referendums in Northern

Ireland and the Irish Republic on the same day about the repudiation of violence and support for the peace process. There is no agreement on such referendums and the Government paper said it "remains to be convinced that a clear case exists for a referendum in advance of negotiations in addition to the elective process". Mr Major said in the Commons that a referendum was unlikely rather than likely, even though it had not been formally ruled out.

The fuss over the apparently complicated form of the elections is largely froth. The system is a secure two elected representatives. This is designed to ensure the

election of representatives from smaller groups, mainly the fringe unionist parties with links to the loyalist paramilitaries, who would not otherwise be returned.

None of the electoral detail really matters apart from this last point. Whether you describe it as a necessary compromise, as Mr Major did, or the best dog's breakfast available, as Paddy Ashdown did, is a matter of taste. One of the main parties is probably bound to feel frustrated, though none is likely to risk upsetting the process at this stage.

PETER RIDDELL

Rifkind's sceptical tone too mild for Tory hardliners

BY NICHOLAS WOOD AND ALICE THOMSON

RESTIVE Tory Eurosceptics fired a shot across the Government's bows yesterday, demanding a tougher approach towards the next round of negotiations on the future of Europe.

Malcolm Rifkind, the Foreign Secretary, was given a rough ride by many of his own backbenchers as he defended his White Paper setting out the Government's position on the intergovernmental conference starting in Turin next week.

With the sceptics packing the Government benches, Mr Rifkind faced calls to flout the rulings of the European Court of Justice and to overturn the

in-built federalist ratchet in the European Union.

Sir Teddy Taylor warned him that the court was intent on nullifying Britain's social chapter opt-out, prompting Mr Rifkind to concede that if the vital interests of nation states were ignored, the EU would become "unworkable".

Although Mr Rifkind countered his critics by promising to work for reform of the court from the inside, to safeguard the national veto and to resist greater powers for Brussels, it was clear that his mildly sceptical tone failed to reassure many Tory hard-liners.

Later, more fundamental

differences emerged with the former Chancellor Norman Lamont suggesting that Britain might have to review its membership of the EU. Other leading Tories warned the Government that the time had come to stand up to Franco-German plans for a federal Europe.

Mr Lamont also backed a referendum going wider than a single currency and covering political integration in Europe. The danger was of "civil unrest" unless the slide to a European superstate was stopped.

The message from the sceptics, who had been holding private meetings to plot their tactics for the debate, was that the Government faces more trouble over Europe unless it makes further moves in their direction. But ministers were safe last night after dodging a proper vote on their proposals.

Mr Rifkind played down the significance of the IGC, which is unlikely to be completed before the general election expected for the spring of next year. "The next IGC, unlike the 1985 one in Maastricht, has not been convened to negotiate a big idea," he said. The aim was the more modest one of improving the effectiveness of the EU's machinery before tackling bigger questions such as a single currency, enlargement and Europe's global competitiveness.

Dr Tietmeyer, addressing a European policy seminar in Stromberg, said that no one should be under any illusion that EMU would create jobs. If anything, unemployment could deteriorate seriously if monetary union were not properly constructed.

However Dr Tietmeyer, addressing a European policy seminar in Stromberg, said that no one should be under any illusion that EMU would create jobs. If anything, unemployment could deteriorate seriously if monetary union were not properly constructed.

He promised a detailed



Bonn in bank rift on monetary union

FROM ROGER BOYES IN BONN

A SERIOUS rift in European monetary union has opened up between the German Government and Hans Tietmeyer, the outspoken spokesman of the Bundesbank.

Dr Tietmeyer described monetary union as "not absolutely necessary in the economic sense", contradicting Helmut Kohl, the Chancellor, who has been talking of the "catastrophic consequences" of delaying Economic and Monetary Union (EMU).

Until now the Bundesbank and the German Government appeared to have been in pursuit of the same goal: the strictest possible entry criteria for monetary union and guarantees of fiscal discipline after the start-up date in

1999. But the tone has changed over the past few days.

Herr Kohl is now deploying economic arguments in favour of monetary union. At a news conference on Tuesday he said that delaying the start of EMU would lead to a slide of funds into the deutschmark, thus destroying the export industry and causing the loss of hundreds of thousands of jobs.

However Dr Tietmeyer, addressing a European policy seminar in Stromberg, said that no one should be under any illusion that EMU would create jobs. If anything, unemployment could deteriorate seriously if monetary union were not properly constructed.

Britain's vision of the EU was a "partnership of nation states freely co-operating together in pursuit of their overall collective interests, using the institutions of the EU only where that is clearly necessary".

Britain's vision of the EU was a "partnership of nation states freely co-operating together in pursuit of their overall collective interests, using the institutions of the EU only where that is clearly necessary".

He promised a detailed

paper on the European Court of Justice setting out British proposals to improve the functioning of the court and to change EU law. This had proved to be an "ass" over fishing rights and the working time directive.

But Mr Lamont challenged the foundations of Mr Rifkind's argument, saying that although his White Paper struck the right note it failed the test of halving the federalist ambitions of other member states. "We are creating by stealth, a monster machine, remote, insensitive and pushing out a mass of unwanted, often ludicrous paper..."

"Britain is heading for a clash with Europe. We have different views of Europe. If they cannot be reconciled, then the time will surely come when Britain has to consider much more radical alternatives."

Robin Cook, the Shadow Foreign Secretary, teased Mr

Rifkind over the Tories' internal divisions while striking a modestly sceptical note himself.

The White Paper was riddled with contradictions, notably over the European Court, only some of which was the work of Mr Rifkind, "a repressed supporter of the EU". The absence of discussion on a single currency was a "gaping hole".

Mr Cook declared: "The truth is, like so much else in the White Paper, the negotiating objectives are not drawn up by any calculation of the interests of the 56 million people of Britain, but by very fine calculation of what is necessary to fit the prejudices of a few dozen Tory MPs."

In any case the winners

Rifkind over the Tories' internal divisions while striking a modestly sceptical note himself.

The White Paper was riddled with contradictions, notably over the European Court, only some of which was the work of Mr Rifkind, "a repressed supporter of the EU". The absence of discussion on a single currency was a "gaping hole".

Mr Cook declared: "The truth is, like so much else in the White Paper, the negotiating objectives are not drawn up by any calculation of the interests of the 56 million people of Britain, but by very fine calculation of what is necessary to fit the prejudices of a few dozen Tory MPs."

Parties but not people go on the ballot paper

IN PARLIAMENT

YESTERDAY in the Commons: questions to Northern Ireland ministers and the Prime Minister; debate on the European Inter-governmental conference; debate (abstain) debate on lottery beneficiaries in west Scotland.

TODAY in the Commons: Dog Fouls (Lands) Bill; second reading; Deaf (Amendment) (Scotland) Bill; report.

Blair wary of by-election setback

BY JAMES LANDALE, POLITICAL REPORTER

TONY BLAIR admitted yesterday that losing the Staffordshire South East by-election would be a severe setback.

Mr Blair, making his first visit to the Midlands constituency in the run-up to the April 11 poll, said it was "extremely important" for Labour to do well. He added: "Things are looking very good. We have had tremendous support from Conservatives from all backgrounds coming over to the Labour Party."

Mr Blair's remarks reflect the tone of Labour's campaign as activists, desperate not to appear overconfident, emphasise that victory is not inevitable. Brian Jenkins, the Labour candidate, said: "This is a Tory heartland. It has been a Tory seat forever and I have never seen it would be easy."

The Tories are surprisingly upbeat, despite not having



Blair: warning

won a by-election since 1989, and know that Labour has its work cut out to overturn the 7,192 majority held by Sir David Lightbown, who died last year.

Mr Jenkins, 53, the local council leader, yesterday took Mr Blair to meet a handful of recent converts. At the Highways Inn near Tamworth, Mr Blair asked whether they might change their minds under the onslaught of a vigorous Tory campaign.

"The Conservatives will run a very big campaign against the Labour Party," he said.

"They will try and terrify

people about Labour and all

the terrible things we are

going to do. How are you

going to react to that?"

Bill Jones, 54, a partner in a local public relations firm, said it would be a test of nerves. "It will take a long

Rebellion danger subsides

MINISTERS appear to have headed off a damaging Tory rebellion on divorce reform.

Tory MPs were threatening to revolt over government plans to remove from the Family Law Bill an amendment providing for pension rights to be shared between divorced couples. Now the Government is expected to

promise a separate Bill on

pension splitting in the autumn in return for the rebels' agreement to remove the amendment.

The amendment was inserted

in the Bill after a government defeat in the Lords.

Roger Freeman, the Public

Services Minister is expected

to announce the new move

when he opens the Second

Reading of the Bill in the Commons on Monday.

Labour considers restoring free eye tests for elderly

BY JILL SHERMAN, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

LABOUR is considering making a commitment to bring back free eye tests for nine million pensioners

over prescriptions and forcing them to spend £13 to £14 on eye tests.

They argue that restoring free eye tests for the elderly would be a vote-winner yet pledge the party to minimal extra spending.

Gordon Brown, the Shadow Chancellor, has told his colleagues that he will not sanction any spending commitments unless they are paid for by savings elsewhere.

It is also unlikely that Labour will increase NHS spending in real terms every year.

Members of Labour's

health team point to the £110 million that will be saved by ending tax relief from private health insurance for the elderly.

They also argue that money

could be found from efficiency savings in management and administration.

Labour has no plans to restore free dental checks or to restore free eye tests for everyone.

At present 40 per cent of the population are exempt from eye test charges including the under-16s, those on income support and family credit and glaucoma sufferers.

Labour's health team is now having discussions with the medical profession and the Association of Optometrists over precise details of the plan.

The optometrists argue that the cost of restoring free eye tests for the elderly would be more than offset by long-term savings in treatment costs.

This is neither the time nor the place to buy a PEP.

n check
d poll wi
nothing o
fish stew

Exercises raise spectre of humiliation for China, say expelled Communist activists

'Black Hands' of Tiananmen study poll preparations

FROM JONATHAN MIRSKY IN TAIPEI

TWO men condemned by Peking as "Black Hands" behind the Tiananmen Square uprising were in Taipei yesterday watching Taiwan prepare for tomorrow's presidential elections.

Liu Binyan, 71, and Su Shaozhi, 65, were long-time party members who were expelled for advocating democratic reform which threatened party rule. They are in Taipei with a group of democratic activists which includes Chai Ling, the "commander in chief" during the six weeks of demonstrations in the spring of 1989, and Li Lu, her deputy commander. Everyone in the delegation lives abroad.

Mr Liu was for 30 years China's most famous investigative journalist, whose readers looked to him for exposes of official corruption and injustice. He was twice ejected

DISSIDENTS

from the party and spent many years in detention until he left China in 1987.

He is regarded by the party as the single most important influence on the rebellious students because of his years of inner-party democratic activism. Now based near Princeton University in New Jersey, his courage despite persecution accounts for his continued inspiration to Chinese democrats.

"What Peking fears here is independence," Mr Liu said. "If Taiwan became a real country it would be an obvious, concrete loss by the party, something they couldn't hide or explain away."

Most Chinese know nothing about what happens in Taiwan, and they were so brain-

washed for years that names like Chiang Kai-shek and Kuomintang still make them anxious. There is also a kind of ignorant superficial nationalism in China, which has nothing to do with making the country better. Its believers insist that Taiwan, like Tibet, must not be torn from China.

Mr Liu favours an eventual link between Taiwan and the mainland. "People here have an island mentality — rather narrow. They would benefit from some sort of relationship with China, but with a democratic one. That might be 20 to 40 years away. Unification of any kind now would only strengthen the regime."

Su Shaozhi, once a leading party intellectual, was, until his dismissal in 1987, the director of the State Council's Marxism-Leninism-Mao Tse-tung Thought Institute, the party's top think-tank. The party expelled him for pressing for ideological reform in the direction of Western-style democracy. He escaped, and now lives near Mr Liu.

"I just telephoned a friend in Peking," he said yesterday, "and asked him what the party really feared in Taiwan. He said it was Mr De." Mr De was the code word for Democracy used in 1919 by university students demanding that to save itself from imperialism, China needed democracy.

"These military exercises are intended to horrify Taiwan," Mr Su said. "It's what collapsing totalitarian governments tend to do... At first, the party got a lot of support for this action near Taiwan because many Chinese, including democrats in the exile community, believe in reunification more than they believe in democracy."

According to Mr Su, the leaders made two mistakes. "Taiwan has not surrendered and the US came to help. They never expected [President] Clinton to do something so decisive. So they have a problem now: a rebellious province with an army."

Mr Su thinks that Peking's failure to intimidate Taiwan has already had serious effects for the regime. "They have lost the hearts of the people of Taiwan; I have friends in Taiwan who were in favour of some sort of reunification. Not any more. And just as in Tiananmen, they have isolated China again, alienating their friends in the West and causing fear of Chinese hegemony all over East and South-East Asia."

Letters, page 19



A Taiwanese soldier mans a 50mm machinegun on an American-made tank near Taipei yesterday.

Carrot and stick tactics fail to frighten voters

FROM DAVID WATTS
IN TAIPEI

WITH Taiwanese frantically campaigning for presidential elections and blithely ignoring Peking's threats, the mainland must reassess its information-gathering on the island, the Foreign Minister of Taiwan said yesterday.

Fredrick Chien said that the clamour for democracy and vigorous media coverage of a rapidly changing society had led Communist Party leaders to make "a big, big mistake" in their assessment of the effect of their attempts at intimidation. They had resorted to carrot and stick tactics.

Yesterday, the carrot was again in evidence when Peking let it be known that it would accept anyone the Tai-

ELECTIONS

wanese chose as their president. "They don't want to eliminate the possibility of repairing the damage," Mr Chien said. "They are tightening the noose and then loosening it again." He added that Peking would not accept the new president as a head of state. "They think that this is a local election."

It appears that the Chinese strategy of either frightening the Government into cancelling the elections or depressing the percentage of the vote for President Lee Teng-hui has backfired.

The indications are that it will boost the level of support for Taiwan's first native-born president.

Letters, page 19

Why Mrs Mandela must be tolerated

FROM R.W. JOHNSON IN JOHANNESBURG

AFTER the wounding Mandela divorce, the real question is what happens to Winnie Mandela now? The case has severely damaged whatever hopes she may have had of inheriting President Mandela's political mantle.

The revelation of the terrible Calvary that Mrs Mandela inflicted upon her husband, the African National Congress's chief icon, is not softened by her inability to contest the allegations against her or by her husband's damning judgment that while she suffered under apartheid "many other women suffered far more". Until now, this has been her alibi for everything. Equally, Mrs Mandela's

last-minute attempt to turn the case into a crusade for women's rights sits ill with her financial dependence upon her husband, not to mention her conviction for kidnapping.

Mrs Mandela's financial prospects also appear dim. It emerges that she has had something like £500,000 from her husband since 1990 — virtually all of it the fruit of donations from well-wishers — but also that she is going through money as fast as deposited royalties in Britain.

She derives a monthly income of £2,700 from investments but her expenditure is seven times that. Although Mr Mandela will doubtless make her a generous settlement,

nobody expects it to be long before she has spent whatever he gives her.

As it is, only repeated interventions by her husband have got her off the hook on the numerous occasions when she has been hauled before the courts for baulking over debts. Future brushes with the law seem certain and she is less likely to be rescued.

Mrs Mandela is far from finished, however. She is a prominent member of the ANC's National Executive Committee and President of the ANC Women's League. She has used that position to embarrass the movement by taking up populist causes against the leadership and

will doubtless now feel more free to do so.

These positions give her sufficient political leverage for it to be very imprudent for ANC politicians to risk taking her on. Those who did so over the affair of the murdered Stompie Moeketsi have all suffered and Thabo Mbeki, the First Deputy President, for example, takes great care to stay on the right side of her.

Moreover, the ANC seems unwilling to disown her, not only because it is half afraid of her but because she is, finally, theirs and her name and dramatic figure still strike deep chords with those who remember her from the brave days of the struggle.



Mrs Mandela: still has support

'Mother of Nation' accused of running criminal gang

FROM INIGO GILMORE IN JOHANNESBURG

HUMILIATED by courtroom details about her infidelity and spendthrift ways, Winnie Mandela's woes continue to pile up with her now accused of running a criminal syndicate.

During hearings at the Supreme Court in Pretoria, Dougie Holthausen, a retired policeman, told how Mrs Mandela was in charge of a gang of criminals who committed robberies on her orders. Giving evidence at the trial of Colonel Eugene de Kock, a former police commander who is facing 121 charges of murder and fraud, Mr Holthausen told how the President's former wife was to have accompanied four would-be robbers who were ambushed and killed by police in 1992. He said she withdrew from the trip at the last minute.

Mr Holthausen named Tsietsiso Leballo, Mrs Mandela's former driver, as a fifth member of the team who escaped the attack only to be killed later, allegedly on the orders of Colonel de Kock.

During the late 1980s Mrs Mandela, a convicted kidnapper still held in high regard by many South Africans as the "Mother of the Nation", surrounded herself with young thugs in the Mandela United Football Club. Jerry Richardson, the "coach", was sentenced to hang for the murder of Stompie Moeketsi, 14, who had earlier been taken to her home.

President Mandela said during divorce proceedings this week that he could expose "more serious" dirty linen than the one act of adultery mentioned. Within hours two of her bodyguards appeared in a court on murder and attempted murder charges.

Most of the companies advertising PEPs these days would like you to send off for details, then send them a cheque. We, on the other hand, would like to talk things through with you first, person to person.

Only then can we get a broader view of your long-term investment plans.

Together we can make certain that buying a PEP is, in fact, the right thing for you to do. And, if it is, we can then agree on which of our range is right for you. To fix the right time and the right place, call 0800 806608.

United friendly
PERSON TO PERSON

Satellite launch boosts Indian defence

FROM CHRISTOPHER THOMAS
IN DELHI

INDIA yesterday successfully carried out the final developmental launch of its home-made PSLV rocket, carrying a satellite into orbit and placing South Asia's superpower in the top league of nations engaged in advanced space technology.

It was a milestone for India, marking the end of the 4,150 million rupee (£78 million) development programme of the Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle and clearing the way for research into a new generation of rockets. It puts India in a position to compete in the lucrative business of launching satellites for other countries.

Scientists from the Indian Space Research Organisation cheered as the 280-tonne launch vehicle blasted off flawlessly from the Sriharikota range on the east coast north of Madras. India has already launched nine satellites and is planning to launch another eight in the next four years.

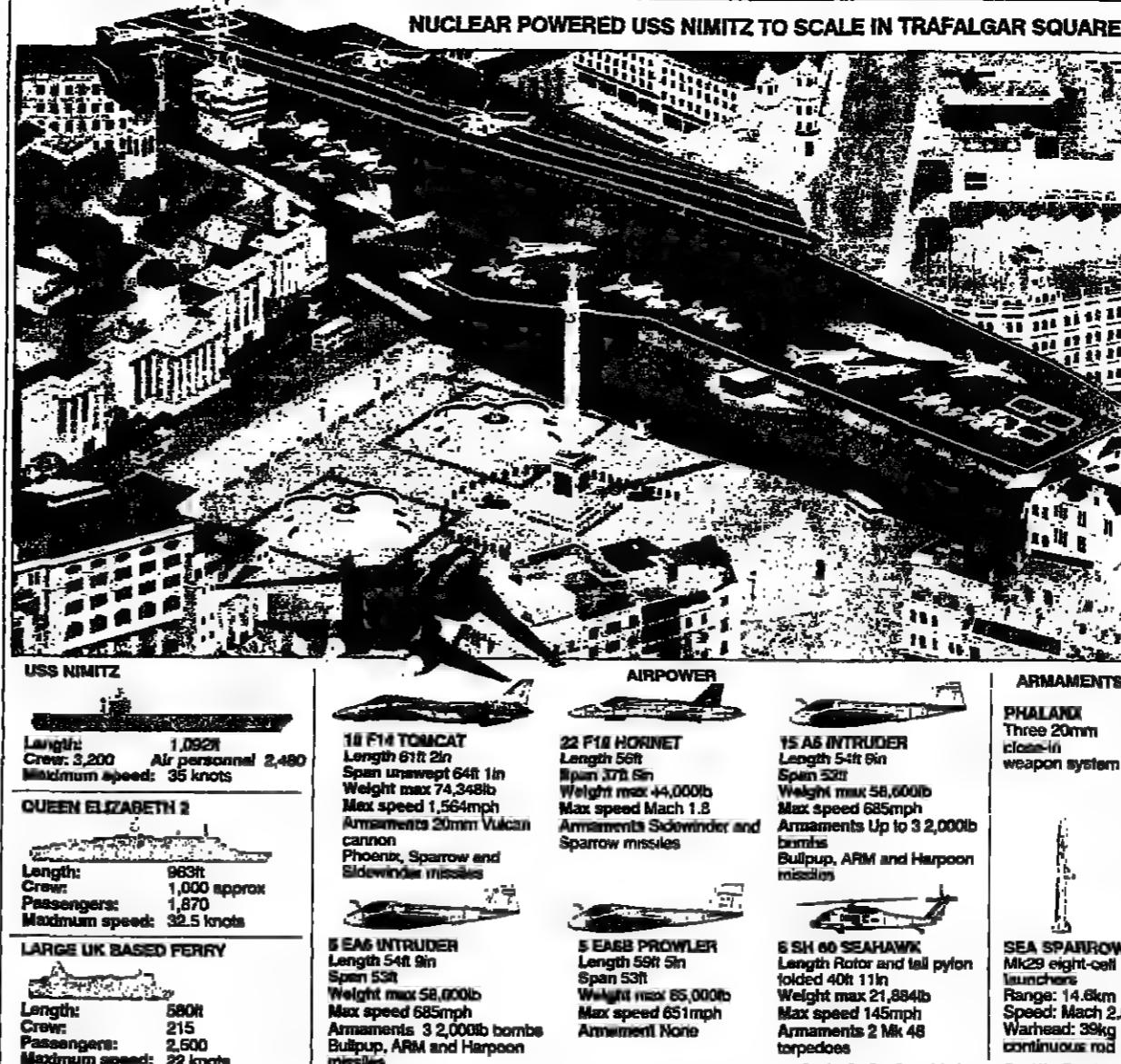
Such advances make neighbouring Pakistan nervous and are fueling fears of an arms race between the two nuclear powers.

The decision by the United States to go ahead with the sale to Pakistan, approved last year, of \$368 million (£241 million) of arms sales, including aircraft and missiles, will intensify these fears. There had been speculation that the transfer would be postponed after reports that China had sold nuclear technology to Islamabad, violating American non-proliferation laws. India lobbied in Washington against the sales.

India's armed forces are seeking substantially increased defence expenditure to modernise and develop indigenous capability. Nearly two months ago India test-fired a long-range version of its Prithvi surface-to-surface missile, which is capable of carrying nuclear warheads. The Defence Ministry last year embarked on a ten-year plan to reduce dependence on foreign suppliers.

The Government recently unveiled Arjun, a 53-tonne, \$300 million Indian-built battle tank to replace Russian-made T72s. It will go into production next year. India has also produced a prototype of a light combat aircraft, which will eventually replace Russian-built MiG21s.

The new American arms deliveries to Pakistan may represent a diplomatic and psychological victory for Islamabad, but they leave the Islamic state overwhelmingly outclassed by its neighbour in conventional defence strength.



A floating piece of America on the front line

FROM TOM RHODES
IN WASHINGTON

THE USS Nimitz, which is expected to arrive near the Taiwan Strait today, is part of the premier fleet of American aircraft carriers which act as central hubs for the forward presence of the United States Navy.

Deployed for the first time in May, 1975, she is one of seven carriers in the Nimitz class, which are powered by two nuclear

Peking condemns US weapons deal

FROM JAMES PRINGLE IN PEKING

CHINA yesterday attacked new American arms sales to Taiwan and denounced a resolution by the US Congress to help to defend the Nationalists. The condemnation came as Peking continued its military exercises just two days before Taiwan's first direct presidential elections.

The latest broadside by Shen Guofang, the Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman, came after Washington said it had approved the sale of arms, including Stinger anti-aircraft missiles. A Taiwan request for diesel-powered submarines was turned down.

Mr Shen criticised the House of Representatives, which this week passed a non-binding resolution calling for America to defend Taiwan if China launched an attack. The Senate is expected to support a similar resolution. Mr Shen described the resolution as "detestable" and said it was an attempt to obstruct the reunification of China and Taiwan.

He noted that American arms sales to Taiwan had intensified tension in the region and had complicated the situation.

Mr Shen said the US bore "unshakable responsibility for exacerbating tension". He claimed that Washington was always "scolding" those who engaged in weapons proliferation so it was very irresponsible of the United States to "sell advanced weapons to a sensitive area at a sensitive time".

Yesterday the USS Nimitz aircraft carrier was steaming into the South China Sea towards waters off Taiwan. It forms part of an American naval task force, the largest Washington has assembled in the region since the Vietnam War, in response to China's show of muscle in the Taiwan Strait.

Despite Mr Shen's words, there are mean to keep high-level contacts alive in various areas.

There are plans for Chi Haotian, the Defence Minister, who has recently revived the slogan of the need to "liberate Taiwan, to visit America next month, and Qian Qichen, the Chinese Foreign Minister, is due to confer with Warren Christopher, the US Secretary of State, in The Hague on April 21.

■ Taipei: A 41,266-tonne container ship rammed into a naval supply ship at Hsingpi Pier in south Taiwan's Kaohsiung Harbour yesterday, almost slicing it in half. No one was injured in the accident.

Military supply ships have been crisscrossing Kaohsiung harbour since China started its war games in the Taiwan Strait. Harbour officials said the supply ships were loading food and weapons destined for Taiwanese islands close to the coast of China. (AP)

US needs missile defence system, say Republicans

FROM MARTIN FLETCHER IN WASHINGTON

ACCUSING President Clinton of neglecting America's security, Bob Dole and Newt Gingrich yesterday unveiled legislation to develop and deploy by 2003 a national defence against rogue states' ballistic missiles.

"Right now the United States has no defence, and I repeat, no defence, against ballistic missiles, and if it's left up to the Clinton Administration it will stay that way," said Mr Dole, the Senate leader who will be Mr Clinton's opponent in November's presidential election.

Mr Clinton "would rather give the money away on foreign aid than use the money to defend America and that's a very big difference in our two views", Mr Gingrich, the House Speaker, said.

The two Republicans were

clearly seeking electoral advantage, but they were also addressing the real threat that certain renegade Third World nations may soon pose as they acquire weapons of mass destruction and advanced missile technology.

In Fulton, Missouri, earlier this month Baroness Thatcher urged the West to develop anti-ballistic missile (ABM) defences, calling the spread of nuclear, biological and chemical weapons to countries like Iraq, Iran, Syria and Libya "the single most awesome threat of modern times".

Ronald Reagan, the former President, first floated the idea of building an impenetrable space-based shield to protect America from nuclear attack in 1983 when he launched the Strategic Defence Initiative, or "star wars" programme.

Green crusader threatens President

By MARTIN FLETCHER

BOB DOLE begins campaigning in California today, but there is another candidate in next Tuesday's Golden State primaries: the White House fears more.

His name is Ralph Nader, a veteran crusader for consumer rights. Though Mr Nader will be nominated for President by California's tiny Green Party, this high-profile 62-year-old activist could siphon enough votes from Mr Clinton to make Mr Dole squeak home in the one state the President must win to retain the Oval Office.

Indeed, Mr Nader represents such a serious potential threat to Mr Clinton's re-election hopes that Democratic heavyweights have been privately begging him to reconsider, but to no avail. Mr Nader is as disgusted with Mr Clinton as he is with the



Nader: could siphon votes from Clinton

More than \$30 billion (£19 billion) was spent on research over the following decade, but before a single new missile defence weapon was deployed the Soviet Union collapsed and the incoming Clinton Administration killed the programme.

The new Administration began working instead on a more modest ground-based defence system. This has not been a priority partly because it does not consider the threat imminent, partly because of financial constraints, and partly because the deployment of such defences is banned by the 1972 ABM treaty with the former Soviet Union.

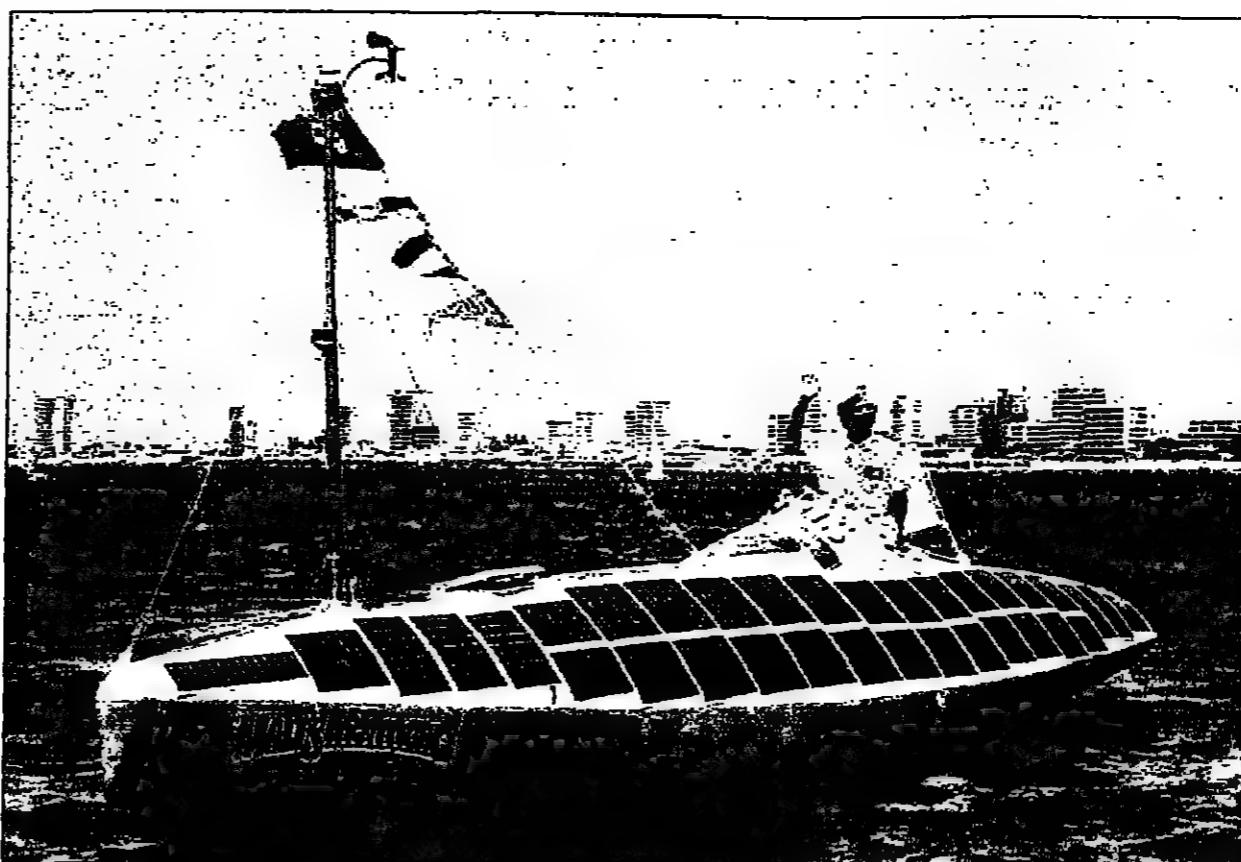
However, the Defend America Act that the two Republican leaders unveiled yesterday would mandate "the deployment by the end of 2003 of a national missile defence system capable of providing a highly effective defence of US territory against limited, unauthorised or accidental ballistic missile attacks".

The legislation instructs the Defence Secretary to produce cost estimates and a plan for deploying the system within a year. The interceptor missiles could be ground-based, sea-based or space-based, and space-based sensors known as "Brilliant Eyes" would detect incoming ballistic missiles.

The Bill urges the President to enter negotiations with Moscow to amend the ABM treaty to permit the deployment of such defences, but suggests the United States should abrogate the treaty if those negotiations had not succeeded within one year.

The ABM treaty was designed to deter nuclear attacks by upholding the principle of mutually assured destruction, but the Bill argues that "the United States and Russia should welcome the opportunity to reduce reliance on threats of nuclear retaliation as the sole basis of stability".

Mr Clinton would probably veto the Bill, but in doing so would expose himself to further Republican attacks on an issue, national defence, that has long been considered a Democratic weak point. He reported to police, who sent a helicopter team to chase the car and rescue her. Police detained one suspect.



Warm beer cans sail west

Whitelock writes. Equipped with a tiny fridge and 120 cans of beer (one for each day at sea), Mr Horie set off to Japan in what he hopes will be the world's first solar-powered crossing of the Pacific Ocean (Giles

video recorder). Mr Horie crossed the western Pacific from Hawaii to Japan in 1985. He has also sailed twice round the world in more conventional craft and crossed the Pacific in the world's shortest ocean-going sailing vessel, measuring 9ft 2in.

Hostage freed by car crash

FROM REUTER
IN HONG KONG

A TRAFFIC accident proved lucky for a Hong Kong kidnap victim — she was spotted in the boot of a stolen taxi after the locked lid opened in the impact of the collision.

The accident helped to save 35-year-old travel agent Young Chai-chi who had been abducted by two kidnappers, the *Apple Daily* and other newspapers said yesterday.

The taxi came to a halt when it hit a container lorry. The lorry driver spotted a wriggling hand and then saw a woman in a pink dress with her head masked in tights, and her arms and legs bound with adhesive tape.

He reported it to police, who sent a helicopter team to chase the car and rescue her. Police detained one suspect.

Wary Clinton faces pressure to keep soldiers in Bosnia

FROM TOM RHODES IN WASHINGTON

PRESIDENT CLINTON, having promised Republicans that he would withdraw American troops from Bosnia-Herzegovina by the end of the year, is facing increasing pressure from international officials to maintain a force in the Balkans after the deadline is past.

The Administration is now searching for a solution that will appease the factions on the ground and international negotiators while at the same time ensuring that Mr Clinton does not lose political capital to Congress before the presidential elections in November.

At the insistence of the United States, the UN implementation force of 60,000 peacekeepers is scheduled to leave the region by the end of the year. The White House insisted yesterday that all

nomic aid and a political renaissance the country was likely to slide back into conflict as soon as Nato withdrew.

Warren Christopher, the US Secretary of State, Malcolm Rifkind, the Foreign Secretary, and other allied foreign ministers are expected to make a decision over Bosnia when they meet in Berlin in June.

□ Envoy stoned: Rebel Serbs shouted abuse at Madeleine Albright, the US Ambassador to the United Nations, and stoned her motorcade when she visited Vukovar which is being returned to Croatian rule after more than four years. Reporters said that Ms Albright cut short a walk round Vukovar's marketplace after she was mobbed by a crowd shouting "bitch" and "fascist". (Reuters)

Do your customers talk to a different company every time they contact you?

Does your right hand know what your left hand's doing? Do your sales, marketing, and customer support departments share the same up-to-date information on each and every customer?

If you want to improve your customers' perception of your company, you need TeleMagic contact management software from Sage.

With seamless links to Sage accounting software, it enables your sales, marketing, customer service and accounts departments to share the same multi-level database - helping you to speak with one voice.

That way, everyone has instant access to the latest information on each of your customers and suppliers - sales histories, payment records, special terms, credit limits, last contacts and any requests made.

So customer service is aware of product quality issues reported to sales. Field sales can check on payment records before a visit. And telesales can take the



More information
Reply now by either posting this coupon to the address below or photocopying the coupon and then faxing on 0191 255 0304.

Alternatively, access our website on <http://www.wagesoft.co.uk>

Name _____

Position _____

Company _____

Address _____

Postcode _____

Tel No. _____

Fax No. _____

Please indicate size of business by ticking the appropriate box.

Employs 1-25 Employs 26-100

Employs 100+

The Sage Group plc

Sage House, Benton Park Road

Newcastle upon Tyne, NE2 7LZ

You know where you are with

SAGE

No.1 in accounting software

0 8 0 0 4 4 7 7 7 7

Lines open: Weekdays 9.00am-5.00pm

THE SUNDAY TIMES

TRANSFORMING SHAKESPEARE

Ian McKellen's stunning and provocative film of Richard III, which opens next month, is set in the 1930s. In *The Culture* on Sunday, McKellen writes about the making of the movie and why the Bard himself would approve

A BRIGHTER FUNDAY

8

THE SUNDAY TIMES IS THE SUNDAY PAPERS

Rosemary Righter reports on a rare exhibition of imperial Chinese masterpieces

A freezing morning in New York — so cold that every twig in Central Park has been coated with ice and sunlight turns the trees into a diamond forest. At the eastern edge of the park, the Metropolitan Museum is closed to the public, as it always is on a Monday. Inside, giant vases of forsythia fill the entrance hall with Chinese imperial yellow. Just beside them, somebody bends with needle and thread over a huge red banner appliquéd with purple Chinese characters, stitching last-minute repairs before it is hoisted over the museum's facade. There is a palpable excitement, even among the press registering for the preview of one of the rarest, and most obstacle-strewn, exhibitions the museum has ever mounted: *Splendours of Imperial China*.

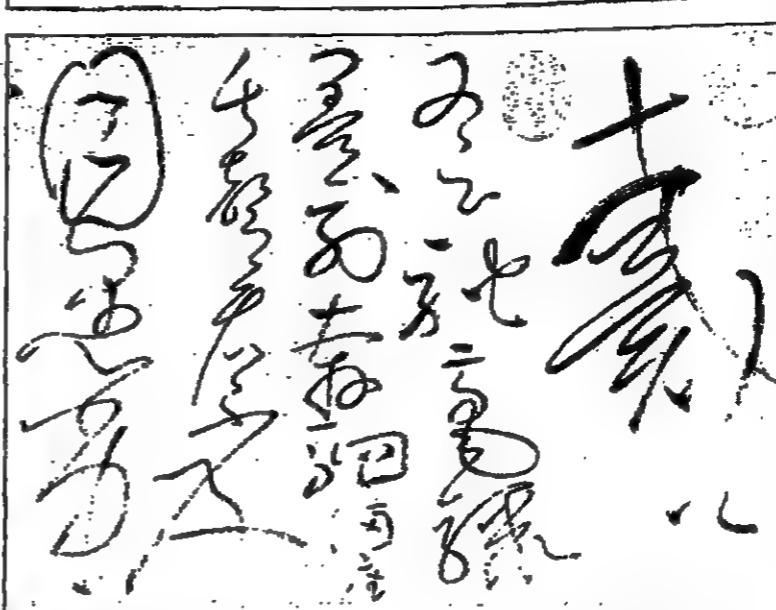
The imperial Mandate of Heaven, in its millennial artistic manifestations, is about to descend on Manhattan. For the first time in 35 years, more than 450 of the imperial treasures from the National Palace Museum in Taiwan have been allowed to leave the island for a year-long tour of America. On view in New York are consummate masterpieces from a collection of more than 600,000 items, accumulated by Chinese emperors over a thousand years and spirited out of the Forbidden City in Peking in 1933 just ahead of the advancing Japanese Army. No finer Chinese art survives anywhere.

The opening of any great exhibition at the Metropolitan is an event in the New York social calendar, a celebration of the huge power and energy of American private patronage of the arts, an occasion for jewels and the kind of evening dresses almost never seen off the catwalk on this side of the Atlantic. But not even a scarlet and gold cheongsam could long divert the eye from 8th-century calligraphy darning, as the monk whose brushwork it was, wrote, "like a flock of birds from trees"; or from Wu Chen's ethereal bamboo paintings, completed in 1350 as an instruction manual for his young son; or from the immortal pair of a celadon lotus bowl from the 12th-century imperial kiln at Ju-chou, which lasted only 25 years but produced porcelain that has never been matched for purity of line and delicacy of glaze.

Years ago, in Taipei, I met the late Han Lih-wu, one of the three men who, in 1933, spirited 20,000 crates of paintings and calligraphy, porcelain, jade bronzes, lacquer, rare books and other objects through the great gates of the Forbidden City and across Tiananmen Square to the trains that would carry them to Shanghai. This was the first halt on their 7,500-mile, 16-year odyssey to the



Above: 15th-century portrait of the Yung-lo Emperor. Top right: jade chimera from the Han dynasty (206 BC to AD 220). Bottom right: Hua-su handscroll, dated 777



past and of intense creativity. The mountains painted by Fan Kuan have an unequalled imaginative sweep and timeless perception of natural space that his imitators and successors never wholly recaptured; the paintings of Kuo Hsi are a stupendous emotional engagement with turbulent natural forces that rebuts the familiar clichés about Chinese scholarly serenity.

Even if these paintings were present, however, the delight and interest of *Splendours of Imperial China* would not have depended on the comprehensiveness of its historical sweep. Nor could it: thanks to spectacular recent archaeological finds, the museums on the Chinese mainland are now vastly richer in bronzes, jade and ceramics from the neolithic period through to the Han dynasty (4500 BC to AD 220) — as visitors to this September's great exhibition on ancient China at the British Museum will discover.

It is, rather, a reflection of imperial taste inherited down centuries marked by tumultuous periodic upheavals, such as the catastrophic losses during the collapse of the Ming dynasty. It is also a cultural and aesthetic history seen largely through the eyes of one ruler, the 18th-century Ching Emperor, Chien Lung, through whose acquisitive energy most of the collection that survives entered the Imperial Palace.

It provides us with a fascinating insight into the scholarly worlds of Ming and Ching, and into the infusion, sometimes with bizarre effects, of Mongol and Tibetan tastes into the "classical" Chinese canon.

It is, above all, a world impassioned — as the title of the magnificent 660-page catalogue by Wen Fong and James Watt suggests — by the art of "possessing the past". It is a double sense of possession, both through the art of collecting, and through the creative reinterpretation — and sometimes merely slavish imitation — of ancient masters.

Nothing could be more different from our own sense of art and its meaning: nothing could be more seductive than this glimpse of treasures rescued from China's last great upheaval; and nothing, fortuitously, could be more dramatic than to see them at the moment when China is once again training its guns across the Taiwan Strait.

• *Splendours of Imperial China*: Metropolitan Museum, New York, until May 19, and then on tour to Chicago, San Francisco and Washington DC. *China: New Discoveries from the Early Dynasties*, sponsored by The Times, will be at the British Museum from September 13 to January 5, 1997.

Forbidden treasures

were washed out and bridges destroyed, forcing the team to haul their irreplaceable cargo across rivers on makeshift rafts. Even when the crates found a temporary refuge in remote temples or caves, fire and white ants were an added hazard.

Finally, in 1949, the crates left the Chinese mainland for Taiwan in the final panic of the rout of Chiang Kai-shek's Nationalists by the Communists. Barely seaworthy vessels slipped out of the Yangtze under Communist guns and across mined sea-lanes. Yet when they unpacked the crates in Taipei, not a cup was broken.

It was one of the cultural miracles of this most destructive of centuries — a miracle given added significance by the subsequent destruction of much that remained in China. Even though Chou En-lai protected the leading museums during the Cultural Revolution, Red Guards made bonfires of provincial and private collections of paintings and forced the owners of priceless porcelains to smash them personally.

The drama helps to explain why the trove's existence in Taiwan is so bitterly contested by Peking that the American Government had to give explicit guarantees that the

works of art now on loan would be immune to any legal challenge by China in American courts — guarantees that Taiwan would probably trust no European government to honour.

It also helps to explain why, at the last minute, Taiwan's proud new democracy nearly wrecked the entire venture. Politicians in mid-campaign for the US presidential elections bowed to vehement protests by art lovers in Taiwan, depriving the Metropolitan — and the other galleries to which the exhibition will travel — of 13 of the rarest, and most vulnerable, of the Northern Sung

paintings in the collection. Nine more will now be shown in only one of the visited cities, and then only for short periods.

The anxiety is understandable. The monumental landscapes of the 11th-century Northern Sung paintings are so precious and so frail that under Taiwanese law they can be unrolled for view for only 40 days in every three years.

But the gap created in the exhibition is out of all proportion to the number of items withheld, for the Northern Sung, in particular, was an early High Renaissance in Chinese aesthetics — a ferment both of rediscovery of the

Direct lifeline is thrown to savers

Time to bail out from the banks and building societies.

	£1,000- £2,499	£2,500- £4,999	£5,000- £9,999	£10,000- £14,999	£15,000- £24,999	£25,000- £49,999
Direct Line Instant Access Account	4.60%	4.60%	5.00%	5.60%	5.80%	6.00%
Woolwich Premier 90 (90 Day Notice)	N/A	N/A	3.50%	4.15%	4.15%	5.00%
Yorkshire Building Society Key 90 Plus	N/A	N/A	N/A	4.60%	4.60%	5.00%
Halifax Solid Gold (90 Day Notice)	3.30%	3.30%	3.60%	4.35%	4.35%	4.85%

All rates are gross* and correct at 6/3/96

Why choose between instant access and high interest when you can have both? In fact our new savings plan has rates so high they even beat the 90 day notice accounts shown above. Haven't saved up enough to get the rate you want? Why not pool your savings with up to five other people and you'll all benefit from the rate the combined balance offers even though you run your accounts separately. So if you want a better return on your savings, call one of our hotlines below.

0181 667 1121

0161 833 1121

0141 221 1121

LONDON

MANCHESTER

GLASGOW

CALL ANYTIME 8am to 8pm Monday to Friday and 9am to 5pm Saturday. Please quote ref. TTS

Direct Line Financial Services Limited, 139 West Regent Street, Glasgow, G2 2BG is a member of the Directs Protective Scheme established under the Building Act 1987 (as amended). Payments under the scheme are limited to 95% of a depositor's total deposit subject to a maximum compensation limit per depositor of £15,000 (or £10,000 if greater). Further details of the Scheme are available on request. The gross rate is the rate paid without the deduction of income tax. All rates shown are subject to variation and are based on annual payment of interest. Direct Line and the red telephone are trademarks of the trade name of Direct Line Insurance plc. For your added security, all telephone calls will be recorded and the recording kept secure. We may also require telephone calls from you for improving our service to you.



DIRECT LINE
SAVINGS

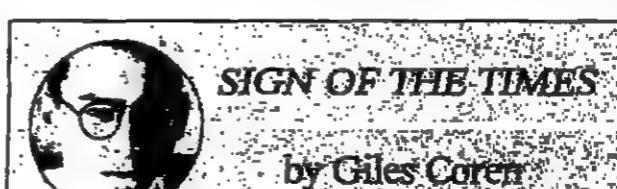
Why the lounge is non-U

Chatting about stakeholding on Radio 4 the other day, Baroness Blackstone had me momentarily panic-stricken. "People will be talking about it in sitting rooms and dining rooms across the country," she said. Not me. I haven't got a sitting room. My home just has five rooms in it. None of them has a name.

What is a sitting room? Is it a drawing room? Is it a living room? Then what is the television room? Or the front room? Or the family room? Or the parlour? Or, indeed, the one always known as "the other room"?

Once upon a time, room naming was terribly important. It was frightfully non-U to have a lounge, for example. As bad as calling the loo the toilet. But with all the choices in the modern world, how are we to know where we might correctly discuss this stakeholding business?

If anyone should know, it is James Morgan, author of the forthcoming *Debrett's Etiquette and Modern Manners*. "In any home, the main non-eating day room should be called the drawing room," he says. "It suggests a certain formality, but is central to any pretence of civilised living. Originally known as the with-



Every home should have one — but what do we call it?

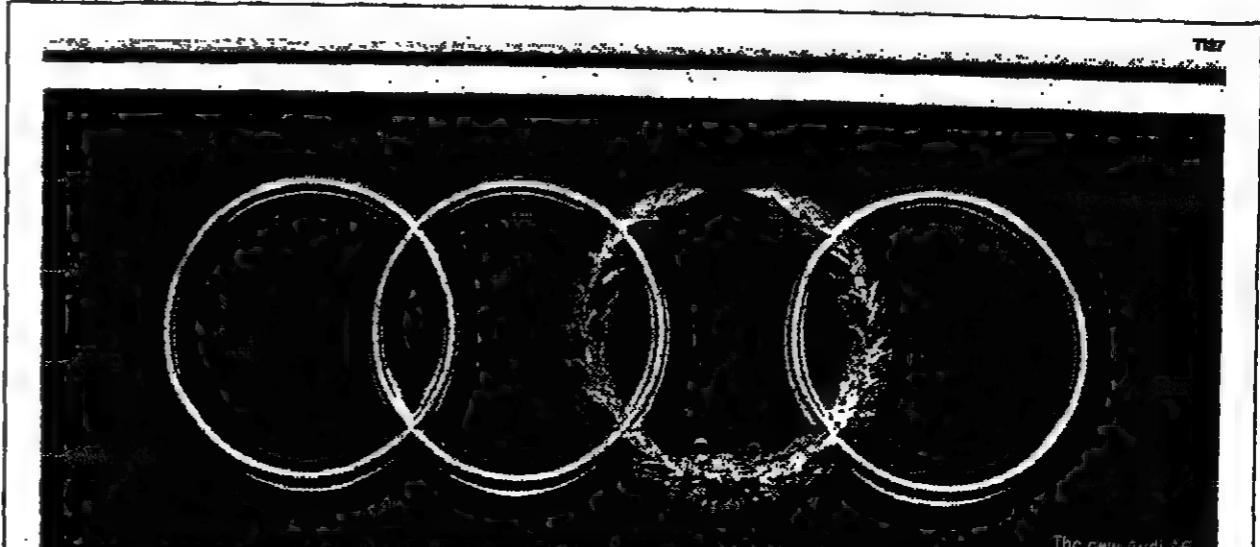
drawing room, because one withdrew there after dinner, it remains the room where you entertain guests, and definitely not the place to eat a takeaway in front of the television. In a modern home, however small, it is crucial."

The sitting room, however, is a luxury available only to those who have a drawing room as well. "This," says Mr Morgan, "is probably what Baroness Blackstone had in mind." It was once appended to the bedroom, and remains a more private place, having shaken off the intimacy of the boudoir. It is a more modestly furnished room, and here you might have the television or radio, or discuss stakeholding.

"Living room", it seems, is

merely a generic term for non-eating day rooms, into which these others fall. But according to Mr Morgan, "it is important to designate what each room is for". Thus family room is an acceptable alternative to sitting room, but lounge is not — "only airports have lounges" — and front room is equally NQOCD. The most common variant, of course, is the television (or occasionally telly) room. But statistics show that the average household has several televisions, so that doesn't narrow things down much.

Not, of course, that the millennial world has need of such niceties, for modern man can now work out where to read a book or smoke a cigarette without having a room specially named after the activity. But perhaps this is what stakeholding is all about. If John Major's classless society has rendered irrelevant the social distinctions pointed up by the way people name their rooms, perhaps Tony Blair envisages something new: an ideal nation, where everyone has a sitting room. For "sitting room", as we have seen, has one thing in common with stakeholding: it doesn't really mean anything.



Tested at Formula 1. Now it's your turn.

The new Audi A6 is the first executive car with 5 valve engine technology derived from the race track. For more information and test drive details call 0345 598877.



Audi. Vorsprung durch Technik.

Lloyd George knew my mother

When Jennifer Longford reads of a politician caught out in an affair, or having a love-child, she reflects on her own secret childhood. In the days when even the Prime Minister could keep his affairs private, she was born to Frances Stevenson, Lloyd George's secretary, mistress and eventual second wife.

In her childhood photographs, Lloyd George smiles indulgently down at her. They walk along leafy lanes, feed the chickens and sit in the garden discussing the New Deal.

"I could never have remained a secret today," she says, laughing, "there would be a lot more digging." Mrs Longford is a retired schoolteacher, still pretty 66, and proud of her own eldest daughter Ruth, who next week publishes *Frances, More Than a Mistress*, the story her fascinating grandmother asked her to tell one day.

Before Frances died aged 84 in 1972, A.J.P. Taylor had edited her vividly observant diaries. But discretion still ruled.

Jennifer's existence had long been denied by her mother. "Do you regret never having had children yourself?" Eyle Robertson asked Frances in a television interview in 1967, when she had written her autobiography. After a pause, she replied: "Lloyd George was my child."

"I felt obliterated. Quite blown out," Jennifer says.

Like many mistresses, the spirited Frances — at 23 — justified her affair by regarding Mrs Lloyd George ("a lump of flesh, possessing like the jellyfish, the power of irritating") as a neglectful wife who, at home with the children, failed to provide a soft shoulder for her husband to lean on. Frances would always provide that.

She twice had an abortion. "I would be proud to have his child, and would be willing to suffer for it," she wrote sadly in her 1915 diary, "rather than die childless." But by 1929 she was nearly 40, and desperate for motherhood. Since LG would never risk the disgrace of divorcing his wife, Frances had an affair with a colleague, Colonel Thomas Tweed. But that Christmas LG had flu and stayed with her in Surrey. In January, Frances joined Tweed in Torquay, but was

certain that she was already pregnant by LG. She wrote to him: "It really has happened this time, my love, and I am so thrilled about it and hope that you will be too ... You can depend upon me to love and cherish you 'till death us do part. You are my husband, and my little child..."

From babyhood, Jennifer called LG "Taid" (Welsh for "grandfather") and he was a constant presence in her life. But she was told to say, at school, that she had been adopted by Miss Stevenson. Every Christmas, Jennifer was left with her nanny while Frances went away with LG. Decades later, Jennifer still felt a sinking of the heart when she heard the first carols.

"But I thoroughly enjoyed my childhood and wasn't conscious of missing her, or thinking it odd. And I loved my boarding school."

Her school was evacuated to Chatsworth House. "I am still surprised when I see Henry VII's rather fine legs in Holbein's portrait, since they covered the lower half of the pictures in case they were damaged by children running past."

At 11, she discovered a file marked "Jennifer's File" in her nursery. "It contained my school reports, a lock of my hair and a 'certificate of adoption'. My mother angrily said she would tell me who my parents were when I was 16. She said she was 'bound to secrecy'. I was used to not knowing, I didn't mind; but I was never really fooled by her stories.

"After LG died in 1945, when I was 15, she told me a totally false story about having been married to Tweed and LG having insisted that the mar-

riage was never acknowledged, out of jealousy. She was saying I was, in fact, legitimate but very much a secret child. Somehow, deep down, I didn't believe it. Tweed showed no interest whatever in me and was married to someone else. It was only when I was 30 that I found my mother's marriage certificate stating that she was a spinster when she married LG. I confronted her with it and she said: 'Well, yes.'

"She certainly slept with both LG and Tweed in the month I was conceived, so it is perfectly possible that she was covering her tracks. Horrifying, isn't it, to think of anyone doing that, but this wonderful opportunity presented itself to make the whole thing uncertain right from the beginning."

Lloyd George, the old Welsh goat, was notorious for making passes at any young girl who crossed his path: Frances constantly had to soothe maids, farmhands etc. But Jennifer has fond memories of LG.

"I always found him great fun: I remember him reading me a story about the Moon falling into the sea and illustrating it by dropping an orange into a glass of water. He made a great fuss of me: treating me as an equal really, as someone whose opinion counted."

In 1938 Jennifer was taken to the Strangers' Gallery of the Commons to hear him speak in the appeasement debate. In November 1940, he wrote to her at school (still hoping to join Churchill's War Cabinet): "We have made blunder after blunder and are still blundering. I had experience in directing a great war and I helped to win the victory. I am unhappy at the way things are done today and I wish I could be in a position to change the course of events."



From babyhood, Jennifer Longford called Lloyd George "grandfather" — but she "was never really fooled"

Julia Llewellyn Smith profiles George Simpson, one of Britain's latest breed of investors' darlings

Rise of the supermanager



Simpson: down to earth

In the public imagination, George Simpson might not be the obvious candidate for corporate stardom. An unassuming, soft-spoken accountant with an endearing grin and rosy cheeks, Mr Simpson, 53, comes across as everybody's favourite uncle, rather than a sharp-suited smoothie speeding up the hard shoulder to catch the last Concorde.

Yet this shrewd Scot, whose favourite phrase is "You've got to get your cock on the block, laddie", has been headhunted to succeed the legendary Lord Weinstock as chief executive of Britain's biggest manufacturer, the General Electric Company, in preference to several promising candidates (including Weinstock's son).

Not only is Simpson a rank outsider, his record is determinedly undazzling. "He may not be the most exciting manager in Britain, but he is like the Rock of Gibraltar," a former colleague has said.

After joining British Leyland as an accountant in 1969, he moved through a succession of increasingly large businesses, including Coventry Climax forklift trucks, Freight Rover vans and Leyland Trucks, before taking over at Rover, first as chief executive, then as chairman.

None of these sparked under Simpson but in the longer term, say insiders, they have become thriving, innovative businesses thanks largely to his strategic thinking. "The stock market doesn't love Simpson because he doesn't make radical changes," says a motor industry analyst. "But investors admire him because he tackles weaknesses and gets low but sure results."

He moved on to British Aerospace, and was then headhunted for the position of chief executive of Lucas, the

motor parts-to-aerospace group, which has been ailing since the 1970s. "He underestimated the task he took on at Lucas," says one industry observer. "Its share price has underperformed in comparison to the Footsie, but that is because his moves have been long-term, and will pay dividends in a decade's time."

Simpson's philosophy will appeal to Lord Weinstock, who has ruled GEC for more than three decades. But superficially the two men could not be more different. Weinstock, 71, is an aloof sophisticate, who loves music and racing. He is a trustee of the British Museum and has honorary degrees from ten universities.

Simpson is known as a man of the people. He has a passion for golf and rugby, is an industrial professor at Warwick University, and is the president of the Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders.

Analysts on a visit to a Lucas brakes plant in France were impressed by Simpson who stayed up with them until 1.30am drinking and talking about the motor industry —

uncharacteristic behaviour for a chief executive.

In common with many rising stars in the business firmament, Simpson, who has been married for 22 years and has two children, has boundless energy, a confident manner that hides a ruthless edge

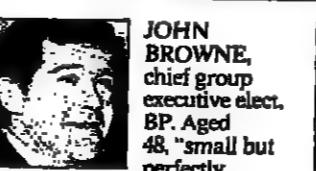
and comes from a working-class background. The son of the manager of a Dundee flax mill, he attended the local grammar school and went on to the Dundee Institute of Technology.

"These are the boys who are winning through," says a

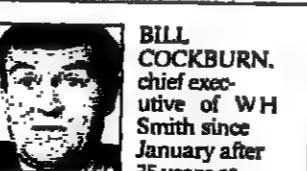
headhunter. "British business is a meritocracy. No one cares any more about the rough edges. Peter Bonfield at BT sounds really rough, he even drops his aitches, but he gets the job done."

GEC will pay Simpson around £562,000 a year, only a fraction more than his salary at Lucas. "But this isn't about money," says a former colleague. "He has taken on GEC for the challenge."

THREE MORE WHO HAVE CLIMBED TO THE TOP



John Browne, chief group executive elect, BP. Aged 48, "small but perfectly formed", quiet, brilliant and ruthless cost-cutter. Son of a British soldier and a Romanian interpreter. King's School, Ely; Cambridge (first in physics). Stanford Business School. With BP all his working life, has held a string of troubleshooting roles from Alaska to Aberdeen, excelled as head of exploration. Obsessed with BP, eschews small-talk. Unmarried, smokes cigars, loves opera, ballet, collects primitive Colombian artefacts.



Bill Cockburn, chief executive of WH Smith since January after 35 years at the Post Office, where he rose to chief executive. Aged 53, short, chubby, Scot, staunch family man. Son of a hospital porter, attributes managerial skills to being the oldest of eight children. Educated at the Holy Cross Academy in Edinburgh. Could not afford university. Has a bouncy no-nonsense charm that endears him to the rank and file but colleagues say that he can be a cost-cutting "human tank". His passions are rugby and golf.



Niall Fitz-Gerald, chief executive elect, Unilever UK. Educated at St Munchin's College, Limerick, and University College, Dublin. Chosen despite Persil Power, the new brand of detergent for which he had overall responsibility and which was alleged to rot clothes. Colleagues praise his leadership, creativity and analytical skills. Known as a risk-taker who can turn around an underperforming investment. Asked for a motorcycle rather than a company car. Married, 50, three children. Crazy about jazz and football.

Tomorrow in the Magazine
The life of Lloyd George on film



My parents try to live out their ambitions through me. we just wanted you to know.

The Children's Society

A voluntary Society of the Church of England and the Church in Wales

a little voice

You can help. Call 0345 55 77 55

Charity Reg. No. 221204. Local rates apply.

Commercial Radio. The fastest growing advertising medium. (Third year running.)

Commercial Radio was the fastest growing advertising medium in 1993 and 1994. And the figures so far suggest that 1995 will be the third year in a row. Commercial Radio. Its time has come.

For more information about advertising on Commercial Radio, contact your advertising agency.

Philip Howard



■ There has never been a great book without a great title — discuss

Today, the burning edge of science is Comet Hyakutake. But comets are fibbertigibbles, here today and gone tomorrow. The place to see the future of science as opposed to the state of the art is not in today's night sky but in the theses being written by tomorrow's professors. And some of these are published in this week's Oxford University *Gazette*. The oral examinations for the degree of doctor of philosophy offer a rainbow of special subjects to make us feel like Mr Hyakutake when his comet swam into Zen.

We look at S-stem nouns in Indo-European word formation and "hamstring contraction latency", at Francophilia and Francophobia in English society 1748-83 and the roles of vitamin A in embryonic lung development in mice with a wild surmise, and have a wild regret that we shall never be so lost in scholarship as to understand them. We may feel like the man who was asked what he would take if he were to be marooned on a desert island and had the whole of Canadian literature to choose from. He answered, "Poison." But the man was wrong. He should have said Margaret Atwood and Robertson Davies for starters, and Robert Service for wilderness gastritis. So we should be wrong to rule out the research projects of the Oxford scholars as over our heads and beyond our ken. For example, J. Wearing-Wilde of Wolfson College is being examined on "Reproductive biology of the bark-louse *Lepidosaphes patruelis* (psocoptera): implications for courtship theory". Even those who shudder at distinguishing a bark-louse from the common-or-garden sort might learn how to deal with their daughters' undesirable suitors from its courtship theory. Is the bark-louse a slow courter, or fast, like the male rabbit who said to the female, "This is fun, wasn't it?"

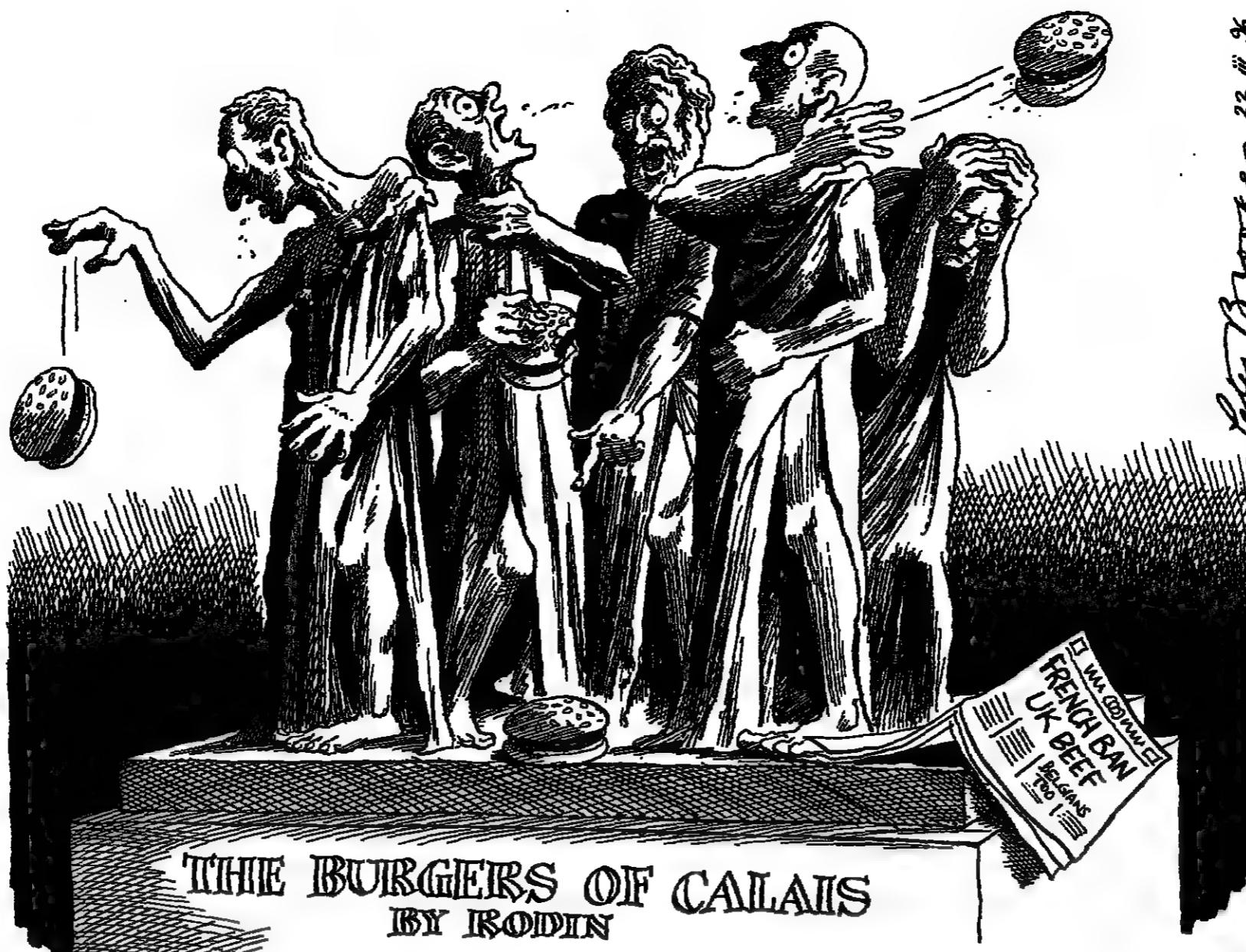
No knowledge is entirely useless. But natural science is a wonderful source of research that sounds wacky. We used to run a column called "silly book titles of the year" at Christmas in *The Times*. But we dropped it because we felt sorry for the indignant authors, unreviewed and then, to add insult to injury, mocked in public. But the Frankfurt Book Fair still runs a competition to find the book title that "most outrageously exceeds all bounds of credibility". It has been won by such titles guaranteed to introduce a ranting good yawn as *Proceedings of the Second International Workshop on Nude Mice* and *The Joy of Chickens*. And it is remarkable how many silly titles are about the other animals, from Poochie Groomers to Lappish Bear Grave Archaeologists.

In *Frog Raising for Pleasure and Profit and other Bizarre Books*, by Russell Ash and Brian Lake, the best section contains weird books on plants and animals in the wonderful world of nature. *Harnessing Earthworms* must be Thomas J. Barrett's guide to the breaking of bronco worms in the Wild West of the allotment. And *The Common Teasel as a Carnivorous Plant* sounds like a video in urgent need of a V-chip or the kind of terrifying man-eating plant that swarms over the news pages in August.

For my desert island, I fancy *Fish Who Answer the Telephone* by Yury Petrovich Frolov. Do you think one could train them to bubble? "I'm sorry, he's in a meeting?" And could such fish live in our coffee percolator? If I were marooned on a desert island, they could deal with any castaway messages in bottles that were washed up. I must also have *The Art of Faking Exhibition Poultry* by George Riley Scott. Riley Scott treads a wobbly line between condemning this widespread and despicable practice, and telling the reader how to do it. He includes a crucial piece of advice: "Always wear rubber gloves."

Dammit, there is no room in our sandy treasure island bookshelf for *New Guinea Tapeworms and Jewish Grandmothers or Ferret Facts and Fancies*. But I want *Frog Raising for Pleasure and Profit*, if only for its handy recipes for such things as "minced giant bulldog savoury sandwiches".

Any human activity, when looked at through narrowed eyes, can seem ridiculous. Some books add a little to the sum of human knowledge. But silly titles are a minor genre that adds to the gaiety of desert islands.



A mandarin in Peking

Does the DPP, Mrs Mills, have no shame about taking tea with evil?

On my desk I have a bundle of papers some inch and a half thick, all of them consisting of complaints about the present Director of Public Prosecutions, Mrs Barbara Mills. A sample: "... policemen's leader described her as a disaster and said that she should be sacked... Is this woman more concerned with prosecuting criminals' rights than convicting them?... one senior Tory said 'She is a menace to the justice system'... CPS director faces dissent from lawyers... Last week Mrs Mills faced calls to resign..."

This bombardment of poor Mrs Mills could be taken with a shrug, and mostly was, but she has now stepped into the limelight in a very different position. She has just come back from China, where she has been matching our legal system with China's, by the courtesy of the Chinese Government; she had come to "see for herself some of the 'major differences' between the two criminal justice systems".

And clearly, the Chinese Government has gone far to investiggle this booby into believing that the Chinese are not all that different from us when it comes to the business of how their respective countries run. I start with this bon-bon: "The Chinese authorities have already come to Britain and a programme for their procurators is being organised."

I'll say it is being organised.

But then comes the full blast of folly. "She visited the procuratorates or prosecuting authorities — in Peking, Tianjin and Shanghai, and also observed a murder trial." (What a pity she couldn't stay for the hanging.) "Major differences between the two criminal justice systems." She said it, not me. I was busy actually measuring the differences. Very major indeed, those differences. For I have in my hand a document, from the scrupulous work of Amnesty International, headed "China: No one is safe" and goes on: "Abuse of power — Torture — Executions". For where Mrs Mills sees invisible democracy coming one day, a fifth of the world's people may never die, even in the smallest particular, the rules and orders and instructions and even beliefs that the Chinese Government has decreed. Go smile at that, Madam.

I now turn to Amnesty's document of reality. I rather doubt that Mrs Mills would have been shown what now follows. It is a list of crimes which, in China, carry capital punishment. They

are not just frighteners, and all of them have been used in executions:

... poisoning of livestock, murder, attempted murder, manslaughter, killing a tiger, armed robbery, robbery, rape, causing injury, assault, habitual theft, theft, burglary, kidnapping, trafficking in women or children, organising prostitution, pimping, organising pornography rings, publishing pornography, hooliganism, seriously disrupting public order, causing explosions, destroying or causing damage to public or private property, counter-revolutionary sabotage, arson, drug-trafficking, corruption, embezzlement, taking bribes, fraud, speculation and profiteering, forgery, reselling value-added tax receipts, tax evasion, stealing or illegally manufacturing weapons, illegally possessing or selling firearms and ammunition, stealing or dealing in national treasures or cultural relics, selling counterfeit money, and blackmail.

It is so awful that it almost becomes funny. I wonder what Mrs Mills would have made of it, if her guide had been so careless as to show it to her. And did her chaperones mention the "Dying Room", in which babies unwanted by the State are flung down, among the fifth and horror, to starve and die? What? They didn't say a word about it? How remiss!

But surely Mrs Mills was shown one or two mass executions, which are not only numerous but steadily growing more so? These people killed by the Government, you must understand, have not been tried, and indeed they have not set eyes on any kind of a court; thousands of people have been sent to the forced labour camps, with or without any reason being given. And if you haven't started to shudder yet, Mrs Mills, try this statistic every year, more people are executed in China than in all the rest of the world put together. (But can it be that Mrs Mills was not given those numbers? Tut, tut.)

Then Mrs Mills visited a prison, "which, she thought, stood comparison with British jails... Prisoners had quite a lot of freedom, recreation. They had televisions, a running-track and so on —

and the prisoners appeared to be well-fed and looked after". And as far as I can see, she believed every word of it.

Well, let us see if we can dent that smugness: what about "Sentences are far heavier than in Britain". Again, Mrs Mills seems to be on the verge of an announcement, two and two make four. Assuredly, sentences are far heavier than in Britain, especially, I might say, when the sentences in question end with a bullet in the back of the neck.

Torture by the authorities is rife; pregnant women are in perpetual danger, as this statement, from a former planning official, shows:

It was part of my work to force women to have abortions. In the evening when the couple was likely to be at home, we would go to their houses and drag the woman out. If the woman was not at home, we would take her husband or another member along and keep them in custody until the woman turned herself in.

That's nothing. But I think this is: "An unmarried woman in Hebei province

who had adopted one of her brother's children was detained several times in an attempt to force her brother to pay fines for having had too many children. In November 1994 she was held for seven days with a dozen other men and women. She was reportedly blindfolded, stripped naked, tied and beaten with an electric baton." (And don't think that women being beaten with an electric baton is a rare sight in China's cells.)

What are the Chinese leaders afraid of? Revolution? It would be put down in a single afternoon, and the ring-leaders dead before that. Loss of face? That was abandoned years ago. A shortage of torture instruments? Alas, there has never been a shortage of those. Yet the leaders behave as if they were on the edge of a precipice and one step would take them over. Well then, what?

It cannot be, alas, the men and women who have dared to defy the brutal system; those heroes and heroines will get their prize in Heaven, not on this earth. The name Ren Wanding would be

known to only a few; but he was the man who dared to speak out, knowing what the penalty would be. He had been in China's jails before, based on his "call for respect for human rights, free speech and the rule of law". He was then sentenced to seven years' prison, but before his "trial" he said, "I am no longer afraid. I have already died once in prison. Once you have been there, you are never really afraid again."

And what about those ten months, who gave out leaflets which included a Tibetan translation of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights? Pause for a moment at the thought of those monks. They knew what would happen, and it did: would you go on giving out leaflets in the shape of a tiny corner of the truth, when you knew what the result would be? I wouldn't. Well, these monks were sentenced for terms ranging from five years to 19 years. And Chinese prisoners sweat out their terms with no remission:

I thought of torturing up all the prison terms I had noted in my document, but it would have taken me hours to finish. So instead, I thought about Wei Jingsheng, though I had thought a lot about him, and I dare say I shall think more about him yet. He was the man, if you don't know, who had been imprisoned for 13 years, with no remission, for "expressing his views about politics and human rights". Then he was released, and within weeks he was found expressing his views about politics and human rights again, whereupon he was sentenced to another 12 years.

Let us come back to the beginning, and those three tolling bells: "Abuse of power", "Torture", and "Executions". Yes, that mustread with its plain truth, "China — No one is safe", was absolutely right. But that makes one think not about a giant land called China that is striving to look as though it is a country that will one day match the real democracies, but about something much more like Rwanda.

As for the ones who truly believe everything and anything that they are told, there is little hope for them. Does Mrs Mills feel ashamed at what Amnesty has dug up while she was taking tea with evil? Well, if she doesn't, perhaps she might think about Taiwan, and agree that the Taiwanese are having a fine time. In any case, we should think about the Buddhist who has just been sentenced to 28 years.

Heeding the wrong boffins

Magnus Linklater
asks how the beef saga came to this

The instinct of any British government is to protect British industry, to save money and to maintain public confidence. That is why the Government's response to health scares involving food is almost always wrong. Ministers react with caution when action is required, and panic when good sense should prevail. That is precisely what has happened with the BSE crisis, which is certainly the most serious of its kind since the war. For the Health Secretary, Stephen Dorrell, even to be contemplating the slaughter of Britain's 11 million cattle is a measure of the desperate straits in which he now finds himself.

It would be an absurd and misguided solution, but what is every bit as deplorable is the history of missed opportunities, suppressed evidence and failure of nerve which has characterised the Government's handling of the issue hitherto. "I can't imagine a more damaging scenario," said one Borders farmer to me yesterday morning as he contemplated the possible end of his herd, built up carefully over seven years. "A large but unknown proportion of infected cattle, a large but unknown proportion of infected people, no reliable tests, and an incubation period of five to fifteen years."

The Government would argue that it has simply responded down the years to the best available scientific evidence, and that until Wednesday, when scientists at the Creutzfeld-Jakob Disease unit at Edinburgh's Western General Hospital finally conceded that there might be a link between BSE and CJD, there was no reason to alarm the public and threaten a major industry.

It is not so simple; science rarely is. Down the years, there has been no shortage of solid warnings from wise and reliable experts that Britain faced a cattle epidemic which could turn into an equally catastrophic human epidemic. As long ago as the early 1980s, the environmental expert Richard North was hearing from vets, farmers, and abattoir owners about substantial levels of BSE in the West Country. The official response in 1986 was to offer farmers compensation for slaughtering infected cattle, but not only did the Government fail to police this properly, but the compensation was only for half of the cattle's value. From 1986 to 1989, 16,000 of infected cattle were allowed into the slaughtering system.

The Southwood committee, set up in 1988 to assess the possible dangers to human beings, contained no experts in spongiform brain disease, and concluded that the risk of passing on the disease was "remote". Ministers, from John Gummer onwards, have seized on this, seeing in it a way of holding the line. At the same time they have downplayed and even suppressed contradictory evidence. Dr Harash Narang, who submitted evidence linking BSE and CJD in 1990, and who claims to have devised urinary tests for diagnosing both diseases, has seen his career decline. Dr Gerald Forbes, formerly director of environmental health in Scotland, says he was "sidelined" when he refused to accept the government view of BSE. Professor Richard Lacey, who has been a moving force in urging the ban of offal and other parts of slaughtered cattle since 1990, is regarded as unreliable, and the view of Sir Bernard Tomlinson, the retired neuropathologist, who said publicly last year that he had warned his children and grandchildren not to eat beefburgers, was dismissed.

But instead, the Government has concentrated mainly on epidemiology, investigating dietary habits and the risks faced by farmers, vets and slaymen. Richard North says there were flaws in the way evidence was reported. The Government veterinary service was cut back just when first-hand evidence was needed, and there was a fatal division of responsibility between the Ministry of Agriculture and the Department of Health.

Dr Forbes believes that the ministry was too close to the farming lobby, and so was prepared to shrug off evidence linking the two diseases. "I've always said the agriculture department was too fond of the farmers," he told me. "All the running was made by veterinary officers rather than medical officers."

Perhaps worst of all, the whole BSE saga has been shrouded in the kind of secrecy that characterises so much government policy. There has been a suspicion of those who challenge the orthodox view and an unwillingness to discuss the risk for fear of putting a £3 billion industry at risk. The net result has been to achieve precisely that.

Asked yesterday what we should do now, most experts began with a version of "I wouldn't have started from here". But all agreed that the wholesale slaughter of Britain's cattle would be a mistake. Richard North pointed out that since only ten deaths from CJD had been linked to cattle, the causes of another 90 are unaccounted for. Dr Narang believes that his urinary test must now be given proper consideration, if only because if it proves reliable it would be the quickest way of restoring public confidence. Dr Forbes points out that eliminating Britain's cattle herd will do nothing for people already infected, and adds that incidences of BSE are now in steady decline.

What clearly needs to change is the way health risks are tackled. What the BSE scandal reveals is that when a government is afraid of the answers, it is not prepared to listen to the questions.

Fish to fry

SIX YEARS ON, John Gummer may be regretting feeding his young daughter Cordelia a hamburger in front of the cameras. But the public relations exercise cannot have been so foolhardy as that of a number of Peruvian politicians who in 1991 were trying to play down a cholera scare in their country.

The Peruvian Fisheries Minister, Félix Canal Torres, appeared on television to reassure the public. He was joined by the President, Alberto Keiños Fujimori, and the Agriculture Minister. And together, they cheerfully tucked into a plate of raw fish to prove that it was perfectly safe for human consumption. Sensibly, the Health Minister refused to indulge himself.

The next day, Canal Torres fell ill. Indeed, so sick was the poor fellow that he had to be carted off to hospital. The South American newspapers reported, a touch too gleefully, that he was suffering from cholera.

Fortunately, he made a good recovery and the official government line was that he had laryngitis, unrelated to his TV dinner. But Canal Torres now thinks twice before feasting on raw fish.

One's snack

AS NIGHT falls on Mayfair, a car pulls out from the Lancer's International restaurant opposite Claridge's and makes its way to Buckingham Palace. Kuldeep Makhani, owner and head chef at the restaurant, is on his twice-weekly curry run, whizzing round bhunas, bhajis and bindis for the Queen and her household.

Specialising in French and Chinese as well as Indian cuisine, Lancer's has won its royal contract after being open a mere four months. Makhani, however, who owns six restaurants in his home city of Bombay, is used to royalty. When the Kings of Nepal and

scraps of paper from as far back as his university days. "We don't describe him as a collector," says his son Ian. "I think 'hoarder' would be the right word."

Popping up

CHELSEA is to have yet another celebrity resident: pop star and modernist dauber David Bowie. Bowie has cheered up a depressed property market by snapping up a house in Gilston Road, Chelsea (est. price, £2.5 million). Now 49, Bowie has reached life's mid-low season after years jetting between digs in Switzerland, Musti-

que, Umbria and the Irish Republic, as well as London.

In a recent interview, he said that he and his wife, the model Iman, would need "seclusion, separate staff cottages and an indoor swimming pool". With payments owing on their Audi convertibles, the estate agents are only too happy to oblige.

Closed book

A NEW skirmish has broken out in this year's battle of the books: the tussle between Sonia Land, chief executive of the literary agency Sheil Land, and her erstwhile colleague Giles Gordon.

Since resigning from Sheil Land to join rivals Curtis Brown, Gordon has been reeling from her onslaughts. First he received an injunction limiting communication with former clients such as Peter Ackroyd and Vikram Seth, then a writ arrived alleging that a press campaign against her. With the injunction lifted, Gordon was beginning to relax — but now Ms Land has issued a writ against the company.

Six veils

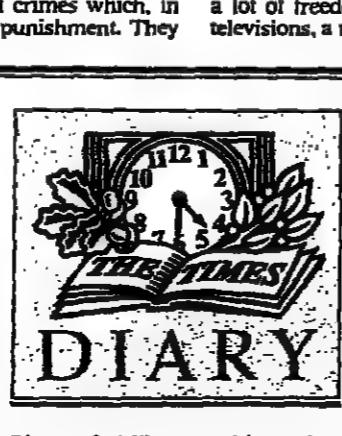
ONE of the Royal Ballet's youngest starbursts has stumbled into a lucrative career as a hat model.



Ballet good show, Sarah

Sarah Wildor, 23, was discovered recently by Janis Anderson, managing director of Bermonia hats, after a night at the ballet. When she looked up from her programme to see the flossy Wildor tiptoeing onto the stage as Manon, Anderson was won. Within days, the ballerina was signed up. "She has the most wonderful eyes," gushes Anderson. "They bring to mind the saying that they are the window of the soul." For the purists, Wildor can be seen in her six-hankie performance of *Giselle* next month.

P.H.S



Iman and David: just comf



A HAPPY HYBRID

Ulster's parties should accept these elections

The electoral system for Ulster's peace forum unveiled yesterday looks an ugly mongrel. The combination of constituency lists and Province-wide popularity polls will fascinate psephologists but leaves the parties dis-satisfied and the people, for the moment, bewildered. But, given the raw materials with which it had to work, the Government has fashioned a workable compromise which no reasonable party can object to on principled grounds. Northern Ireland's politicians would do their people a grave disservice if they did not seek to make the mongrel work.

Devising elections for a peace convention was always going to be a task to test ministers' ingenuity. Scarce more than a month ago nationalist Ireland regarded elections as an Orange ramp designed to restore Stormont by stealth. Once Dublin and John Hume had been persuaded to travel to all-party talks by a democratic path another difference emerged: each party preferred a separate path. The Ulster Unionists wanted to use Westminster constituencies, the DUP and SDLP advocated variants of the European election practice of treating the Province as one constituency.

Each side dressed up its case with arguments of principle but it was obvious they were manoeuvring for simple party advantage. Westminster elections play to the Ulster Unionists' strength and the European poll rewards the longer-serving, high-profile leaders of the SDLP and DUP.

Churchill observed that democracy was the worst way of choosing politicians, apart from all the rest. The same could be said of these elections. If the Government had adopted any of the proffered systems it would instantly have alienated a significant section of mainstream Ulster opinion and imperilled progress. It had to devise a

scheme whose parentage was, at the least, obscure, at best various. The resulting compromise delights no party but it passes the important tests.

The system seems complex but it will be simple for the voters. They will vote once, for the party they wish to represent them in negotiations on Ulster's future. Voting by constituency should help smaller parties whose support is geographically concentrated, such as the Alliance or the fringe Unionists who speak for the loyalist paralytics. The top-up 20 elected from the Province's ten biggest parties should maximise inclusiveness.

Not only will the forum grant democratic legitimacy to those who should negotiate a stable settlement in Ulster, it will also exist as a body in which Northern Ireland's politicians can learn new habits. Nationalist fears of the forum evolving into another Protestant parliament should be allayed by the two-year maximum life-span laid down.

Talks should follow elections almost immediately, but it looks gravely unlikely that they will be all-party. Without an IRA ceasefire there will be no invitation to Sinn Fein. Ministers insist that, even with an unequivocal ceasefire, there will be no progress without a commitment from the republicans to pursue their goals by exclusively peaceful methods and tackle decommissioning. There is already pressure to dilute these conditions. It must be resisted.

Ulster's future should be decided by those prepared to compromise and accept the will of the Province's people. Republicans still show no sign of accepting basic principles of democratic consent. The best response to terror is a determination by democrats not to weaken, but to learn to work together. The forum is the place to start and these elections are the best available route there.

THE POLITICIAN AND THE COW

A modern morality tale for adults and children

However carefully chosen the sombre words of ministers and government scientists, the alarm about beef safety is growing. The Spongiform Encephalopathy Advisory Committee will not decide until the weekend whether it is safe to allow children to eat beef products. But more schools throughout the country have taken hamburgers off the menu. In Brussels, veterinary experts are meeting today to see how the European Union can protect its consumers. But already France, Germany and Belgium have imposed bans on all British beef. Their action is illegal; but their response entirely understandable. On this side of the Channel, British consumers are about to inflict on the £4 billion beef industry one of the most devastating boycotts to hit a staple food.

Stephen Dorrell, the Health Secretary, is even contemplating the wholesale slaughter of Britain's cattle in an attempt to rid the country of bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE). Scientists who have long raised their voices against government complacency are now listened to with respect and trepidation. Professor Richard Lacey suggests that up to 500,000 people may develop Creutzfeld-Jakob disease. Sales of beef now look set for precipitous decline. Farmers face ruin at the weekend auctions; thousands may go bankrupt.

It is a terrible tale of woe which is not over yet. Mere reassurance will not half the immediate stampede away from beef. There is no reassurance while herds are infected and even the smallest possibility exists of transmission to human beings. Popular feeling is fickle but the Government must steel itself for a catastrophe in British agriculture. If all herds had to be destroyed, full compensation for 11 million cattle would run to about £14 billion, with perhaps a further £6 billion for the loss of beef-related jobs. Beef would be scarce for about five years; imported dairy products would be prohibitively expensive.

The Government may balk at such a step. The question of compensation itself would be controversial. Even allowing that the Government must be held responsible because it approved the feeding methods which allowed BSE to be passed through the ruminant food chain, analogous industrial arguments for tax-payer bale-outs receive scant shrift. Builders have not been so generously compensated for ripping out asbestos, even though the Government approved it as a suitable fire-resistant material.

Agriculture has to be shown to be different. But how different? Farmers are the stewards of the countryside; their survival is essential to our enjoyment of our own land; although wartime ideas that Britain needs autarky in food production no longer hold water, farming is still an essential industry. These arguments hold force but not as much force as once they did. Agriculture needs to be weaned from dependence on subsidies, European intervention prices and other modern trends which have damaged farmers' reputations, not least for stewardship of the countryside.

Movement to freer markets is needed. But that movement needs to be gradual and sure if it is to gain common consent. Political realities alone — obvious from a look at the electoral map — shows that no politician dare offend the farming lobby by precipitately denying support.

Any strategy to counter BSE and future crises of the same kind must deal with the power of the farming lobby. In many ways it is the very success of British agriculture, its arrogance in believing that it can go against nature in feeding cattle, that has so contributed to the BSE catastrophe. The Ministry of Agriculture has itself been too long too influenced by the food producers. The independent voice of consumers has been too weak. Humility must inform the tough decisions ahead. The Government and the country have paid a high price for hubris.

THE PIGEON HAS LANDED

Why the VAT-man is a spoilsport

There was first the mystery thief of Trafalgar Square who crammed hundreds of pigeons into his cardboard box, destined for we know not what end. Now, in another cruel blow to the pigeon *monde*, a Customs and Excise tribunal in Bristol has ruled that pigeon racing is not a "sport"; it is, instead, a mere "hobby". Members of the Royal Pigeon Racing Association will, as a result, have to pay VAT on their annual subscriptions, netting about £30,000 a year for the taxman.

We do not like this one bit. Pigeon racing is a sport, and to class it as a hobby or pastime — lumping it with Pooh-sticks, tiddlywinks or table-football — is but to traduce heedlessly an ancient art. There are few creatures more sophisticated than the homing pigeon, and the bond between bird and trainer is often akin to that between clever child and proud parent.

There are important questions that we feel obliged to raise. Can the killjoy tribunal have been unaware that pigeons were raced at the time of the fifth Egyptian dynasty? Did its members know that the Sultan of Baghdad established a pigeon post system in the 12th century AD, and that Genghis Khan — as much for his love of pigeons as for his hatred of other living things — used just such a system to link one bloody corner of his empire to another?

And did the tribunal really expect a sympathetic response from *The Times*? After all, our relationship with the homing pigeon is a warm and affectionate one, and goes back to the Franco-Prussian War of 1870. During the harsh siege of Paris, communications between the French capital and Printing House Square were cut off more completely than they were even during the Napoleonic Wars. By an ingenious combination of hot-air balloons ("windbags" as they were then called) and carrier pigeons, news travelled to London to be printed — and then travelled back to Paris, reduced to microscopic size, to be read by projection onto a screen.

The VAT-slapped racing pigeons of today belong to that noble fine which once took *The Times* to war-locked Paris: the tribunal, whose sense of poetry is small, clearly does not appreciate this. And its mean-spirited decision, predictably, could lead to yet more problems with Brussels. The trouble, fortunately, would not arise with the European Commission this time, although there can be no guarantees in this business. It would arise, instead, with that other renowned body whose headquarters are in the Belgian capital — the *Fédération Colombophile Internationale*. British pigeon racers: take your case to pigeon-loving Brussels. Unite! You have nothing to lose but your VAT.

Letters should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be faxed to 0171-782-5046.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

Dangers of BSE link with humans

From Professor Emeritus Ivor H. Mills

Sir, Yesterday's announcement by the Government that the strain of Creutzfeld-Jakob disease in the young people and farmers who died of the disease in recent years is a new one (report, March 21) must revive the worries that CJD represents a trans-species infection by BSE from cattle to humans. The much faster fatal in humans of BSE cattle slaughtered per month will not allay these fears.

Although those of us who gave evidence to the Select Committee on Agriculture in 1990 must regret that we were not able to make the case forceful enough to persuade the Government to take much more rigid measures to safeguard the population, the accent now must be firstly to try to fathom how they were infected and secondly to decide on the essential steps to prevent unnecessary further infection.

The oral route of infection with prion protein diseases, such as scrapie and CJD, requires a heavy infection which could come from the nervous system or the lymphoid tissues, especially in made-up meat products. How then did the farmers get infected by caring for cattle bearing BSE?

In giving evidence to the committee in 1990 Dr Helen Grant stressed the risks from opening the skulls of affected animals and spraying parts of infected brain over the rest of the meat or into the atmosphere that the abattoir workers were inhaling. Equally, if the farmers fed the meat and bone meal to their cattle, the dust that such food produces could have been breathed in by the farmers and caused the infection.

From now on the brains of calves under six months should not be available for consumption by man or animals. Meat and bone meal should not be allowed to be made from any cattle or flocks of sheep or goats known to have scrapie. Such stocks which are available should not be used to feed any animals or birds. Destruction of all offal from cattle and sheep should be in such a manner that it cannot get into the environment — eg, it should not be buried where rats or other animals can get at it and run the risk of spreading the abnormal prion throughout the wild animal population.

It still seems to me that muscle meat ("a cut off the joint") is safe to eat if strict precautions are taken to prevent contamination. Made-up meat dishes will still be highly suspect unless one can be certain they are made from safe muscle meat.

Yours faithfully,

IVOR H. MILLS,
University of Cambridge
Clinical School,
Department of Surgery,
Douglas House,
Addenbrooke's Hospital,
Trumpington Road, Cambridge.
March 21.

From Ms Sara Starkey

Sir, We are told it is best breast-feed our babies, thus immunising them with our antibodies to help protect them in the first months of life. We are also told, while breast-feeding, not to take alcohol, smoke or consume unnecessary medication and drugs, as this will taint our breast milk.

We now have a panic (rightly I believe) over a connection between BSE and CJD through the eating of beef. As farmers can milk cows until the day a cow is diagnosed with BSE, surely the Government and the media should be further investigating the possibility of a link between the consumption of cow's milk and other dairy products and BSE/CJD. Or is such a link too inconvenient and too awful to contemplate?

Yours etc,

SARA STARKEY,
12a Ashburnham Road,
Tonbridge, Kent.
March 21.

From Mr R. M. Pickering

Sir, Could there be a clearer illustration of why the public does not trust politicians than the Government's handling of BSE?

Yours etc,

ROBERT PICKERING,
31 Argyll Road, W8.
March 21.

Lottery dreams

From Mr Peter Scott

Sir, Tim Congdon (article, March 15; letters, March 21) is mistaken in contrasting the dream of winning the lottery with the Thatcherite "virtues of thrift and hard work".

The prospect of something for nothing has been a characteristic of government policy for the last 16 years: the sale of council houses at below market prices, the windfall profits from privatisation, the desire for tax cuts, the creation of unemployment and insecurity with the resulting expansion of the dependency culture.

The lottery is not a denial of Thatcherism; it is its apotheosis.

Yours faithfully,

PETER SCOTT,
24 Cefn Coed Avenue, Cardiff.

Business letters, page 27

Divorce law: good intentions and lessons of experience

From Baroness Young and others

Sir, We were disappointed by the letters from Lord Carr and Lord Elton and from the Bishop of Worcester (March 18) concerning the Family Law Bill. They fail to take account of some of the key points that were raised during the lengthy proceedings in the House of Lords.

Above all they fail to recognise that fault is not to blame for so-called "quicker" divorces, but rather the special procedure introduced in 1973 under a statutory instrument. This cut the time between decree nisi and decree absolute from six months to six weeks, so encouraging people to settle fault.

In Northern Ireland, where there is no special procedure, the majority of divorces are on the basis of two or five years' separation and there is no clamour to change their law. In Scotland as recently as 1989 the Scottish Law Commission recommended a retention of a fault-based system, and their divorce rate is lower than in England and Wales.

The Bishop of Worcester's description of the Bill as putting "marriage and the family at the centre" beggars belief. The "no-fault" experience in other countries shows that it has increased the divorce rate. The most thorough and detailed American study to date showed that no-fault divorce led to a significant increase in the divorce rate of between 15 per cent and 25 per cent.

We believe that the same factors that operated there could well lead to a comparable increase in this country. Similar evidence is becoming available from Australia. It should come as a warning, and not a surprise, that almost a quarter of US states are considering Bills to repeal their no-fault divorce laws.

When the "no-fault" provision is coupled with the provision to allow a divorce at the end of a year, even against the wishes of one of the parties — without any reason being given except the irretrievable breakdown of the marriage — young people in particular will see this as divorce on demand, and hardly an example to set to the next generation.

With today's report that the Office of Population Censuses and Survey's expects a further increase in the percentage of marriages ending in divorce, we hope that Conservative colleagues in the Commons will amend this flawed Bill to promote the institution of marriage. The Conservative Party has always believed in the traditional family, and the institution of marriage. It is time for it to live up to its beliefs.

Yours faithfully,

YOUNG,
JEFFREY ARCHER,
GRIFFITHS OF FORESTFACH,
House of Lords.
March 20.

From the Principal of St Anne's College, Oxford

Sir, The present debate on divorce reform (letters, March 8, 18) has been to some extent invalidated by a lack of appreciation of the gap that always opens up between family law on the statute book and its effect in practice.

For example, judging by precedent,

the one-year waiting period is hardly likely to amount to a genuine opportunity for reflection because the pressure to reach the required financial settlements within it will be an embittering and terminal experience in those cases where there is any money or property to divide.

The start of the year will also provide an opportunity for (usually) the wife to seek an order to oust her husband from the home, a move which is tactically advantageous under our ancillary relief principles and will be facilitated by the domestic violence part of the Family Law Bill.

An ouster order will effectively scotch the prospects for reconciliation or second thoughts.

No-fault divorce originated in California in 1969 and has spread to all 50 American states. Just like our proposals, they had the best of intentions, and they all have a cooling-off period of six to 12 months and mediation.

tion for children's issues. The results have been a rise in divorce, the destruction of any residual power to bar gain and delay divorce on the part of the spouse who does not want it, and continuing damage to children.

No-fault divorce in the US is widely recognised as having become divorce on demand. Several American states now have plans to repeal no-fault divorce and to return to marriage with obligations. It is ironic that we are seemingly about to enact a divorce law that has been tried and found to fail in its objectives in the US.

Yours sincerely,
R. L. DEECH, Principal,
St Anne's College, Oxford.

From the Director and Chief Executive of the NSPCC

Sir, The NSPCC welcomes the intention of the Family Law Bill to reduce family breakdown and save marriages. The Bill will provide an invaluable opportunity for couples to consider their difficulties and for saving their relationship. This can only be good for the children.

We recognise that all families are different and that decisions about how long a period of reflection between initial application and the granting of a divorce is always going to be controversial and difficult. We do, however, take the view that on balance a 12-month period should be sufficient for a couple to decide whether or not the marriage can be saved.

We know that the disruption caused by divorce can severely limit the parents' capacity to care for their children, and we believe that any longer period would unnecessarily extend the duration of uncertainty and insecurity for the child. A year is a very long time in the life of a child, both developmentally and psychologically.

Yours sincerely,
JIM HARDING,
Director and Chief Executive,
The National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children,
42 Curtain Road, EC2.
March 20.

English syllabus

From the Chief Executive of the School Curriculum and Assessment Authority

Sir, Far from marginalising Shakespeare, as Susan Elkin suggests (Education, March 15; letter, March 19), GCSE English syllabuses will ensure that, for the first time, all pupils are required to submit work on a Shakespeare play.

This is not the case at present. Neither the English nor the English Literature GCSE requirements insist that Shakespeare is examined. In some syllabuses no more than a sonnet, or an extract from a play, is required.

The new GCSE syllabuses aim to preserve balance in the English curriculum. This means demanding high standards in grammar, syntax, spelling and punctuation, and placing a new emphasis on the English literary heritage. It also means introducing pupils to the richness of writing in English from around the world, and to different types of non-fiction.

Pupils need a critical appreciation of great literature. They also need a level of literacy that will allow them to function effectively in further studies or in work. The strengthened rules for GCSE will help to meet these goals.

Workless in the wings

From Mrs Lisa England

Sir, Whilst having every sympathy with the plight of "resting" actors deprived of unemployment benefit (report, March 19), I was astonished to read that 25 per cent of Equity members (some 10,000) had not worked at all during the last year. This suggests that the profession is oversubscribed.

If you enter an oversubscribed profession, must you not take responsibility for the luxury of making that choice? Should you not try supporting yourself in some other occupation, whilst waiting to exercise your skills, rather than expect the diminishing number of taxpayers to support you?

OBITUARIES

Victor Zorza, Kremlinologist, died on March 20 aged 70. He was born on October 19, 1925.

VICTOR ZORZA enjoyed an international reputation, from the 1950s to the 1970s, as the most imaginative analyst of Soviet policy. He wrote first for *The Guardian*, later in America for *The Washington Post*, and had the distinction of correctly predicting, among other landmarks of Soviet history, the breakdown in Soviet relationships with China and the invasion of Czechoslovakia.

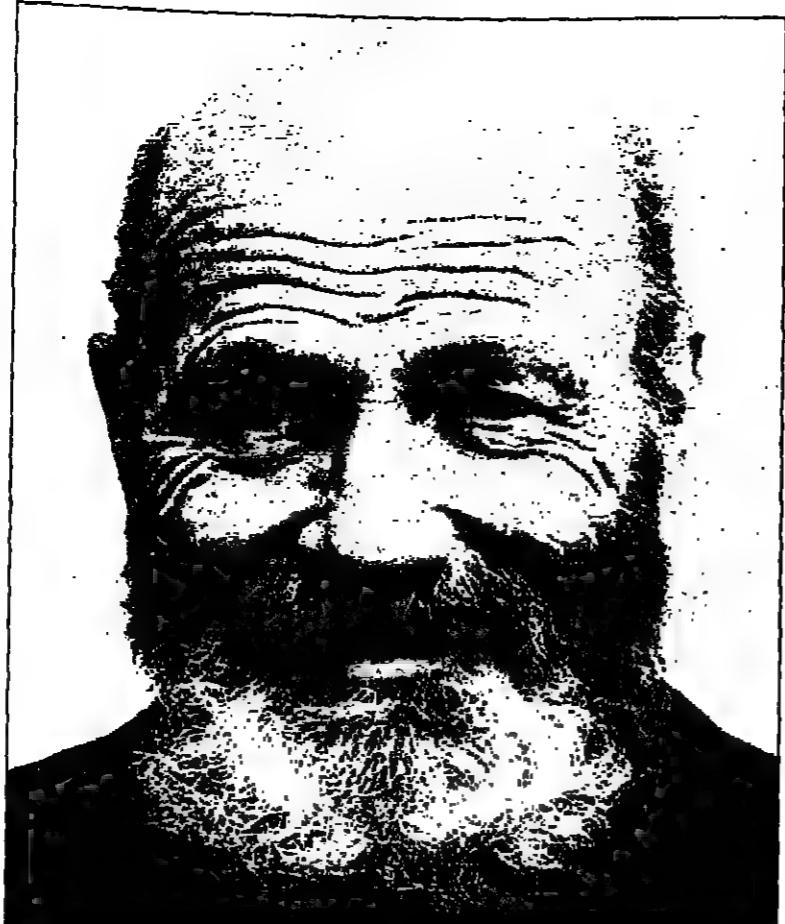
His ambition to work on *The Manchester Guardian* (as it used to be) sprang from his spell with the Polish Air Force during the Second World War. Unprobably, he was based somewhere in the Middle East, but managed occasionally to read the weekly edition. After the war, however, he discovered that the newspaper did not see the need for a full-time Kremlinologist, so he worked instead at Faversham.

This was a long way from Zorza's childhood in eastern Poland. He was born into a family of Polish Jews, and when Poland was invaded in 1939 fled to the Soviet Union. He was anxious about what had become of his family and returned to search for them. Immediately he was picked up, deported to Siberia, and after many adventures, escaped to Britain to join the exiled Polish Air Force in 1942.

After the war he attempted again to trace his relations, but after much searching had to conclude that no one in his extended family had survived. He became obsessed with the enormous sum of human misery caused by wars, and with the onset of a cooler relationship between the East and West, read voraciously anything he could on the Soviet Union. He joined the BBC's Foreign Service, monitoring its Soviet broadcasts, and bombarded *The Manchester Guardian* with articles on the subject. He married Rosemary, a colleague at the BBC, in 1949.

Zorza's professional fortunes changed dramatically in 1953 on the night that Stalin died. *The Manchester Guardian* found that it had no obituary. He wrote a monumental piece and thenceforth became the paper's resident Kremlinologist. In 1956 he was taken onto the staff of the paper. His consuming interest in his subject was matched by a vigorous command of English which it was hard to believe had been attained at a Polish secondary school.

He settled down to many years of watching the Soviet political scene. He scored a particular success with his

VICTOR ZORZA

perceptive articles on the deteriorating relationship between Moscow and Peking in 1957. The quoted evidence usually seemed of the bluntest: the omission of China from a Kremlin listing of brothers-in-arms, the careful parsing of sentences from articles in *Pravda* that could be read as reflecting pique with Peking. This was not the sort of minute detail that other observers would miss, or be at a loss as to how to interpret.

To some colleagues, Zorza's Kremlinology seemed to rest on the endless identification of dogs that did not bark. His defence of his methods was robust: "You simply do not understand. I tell you that I'm right." And by the early 1960s he was proved to be so.

He was one of the few observers to foresee the Soviet invasion of Czechoslovakia in 1968. The Soviet authorities had taken the strongest exception to Zorza's reporting in the build-up to this, particularly to an article entitled "The Czech regime is in danger". A retaliatory article in *Izvestia* claimed that Zorza had entirely misrepresented the situation and described him as "striving by means of sundry forgeries

and fabrications to rupture the bonds of friendship and brotherhood between the USSR and Czechoslovakia". The paper also claimed that Zorza had been a Soviet agent since 1957 but—in a cut which Zorza found particularly unkind—they found that he had always worked "quite negligently".

By then Zorza was practising his craft from a rustic cottage near Burnham Beeches. *The Guardian* (as it became in 1959) provided a Slav-speaking assistant and Zorza filled the cottage with filing boxes crammed with newspaper cuttings in Cyrillic script. From the outset he regarded any truncation of his copy as an attack on his personal integrity. Colleagues suggested that he should rid himself of this sense of injustice by writing books as well as journalism. But Zorza was a writer who saw text only in 1,000-word chunks. Along with other writers, he became more disconcerted still when some of the consequences of *The Guardian's* move to London in the early 1960s became apparent.

In 1971 he left Britain and joined the staff of *The Washington Post*. He avoided briefings and Washington lunches, spending his days, as before, prowling through stacks of Soviet bloc newspapers. Again, this painstaking approach yielded impressive results, and his column became required reading in the White House.

Then came a personal tragedy for Zorza. In 1977 his daughter Jane contracted a melanoma on the sole of her foot. Zorza and his wife returned to Britain and, in a distressingly short time, watched their daughter die in a hospice. The care which was provided impressed Zorza enormously and he was moved to write a book about Jane's death, not only as a form of catharsis, but in order to promote the growth of the hospice movement. *A Way to Die* was published in 1979, but before it had been published, Zorza had to undergo a heart bypass operation and was informed that he himself probably had only a year to live.

This galvanised him into the next stage of his career. Ever since a trip to India which he had made with his daughter, Zorza had been planning to return and to write about the problems facing the rural poor in the Third World. As soon as he was able, he did so and, from 1981, lived mostly in a mud-and-stone hut in the Himalayas.

He produced a weekly column for *The Times* on local life which, for the first time, attempted to provide Western readers with an unsentimental, vigorous account of villagers' lives. Peasant life did not change him much. He set about collaring the great, the good and the famous of the locality with all the zeal of a cub reporter hunting for a story.

In 1989 he was returning home, as he did quite regularly, and decided to do so via Moscow. While he was there his old interest in the hospice movement was reawakened, when the terrible plight of the terminally ill in that country was brought to his attention. He was appalled by what he saw and determined to do what he could for the Russian people during his last years (he was still fighting heart disease). He set up the British Russian Hospice Society, a task for which he was particularly suited by his knowledge of the way Russian bureaucracy worked, and sent out teams of British nurses to train their Russian counterparts. The first Russian hospice was opened in St Petersburg, and another is soon to follow in Moscow.

Two years ago Victor Zorza discovered that his sister had survived the Holocaust and that for more than 50 years had been searching for her lost family. They were reunited in 1994. She survives him, as do his son and his companion for the last two years, Eileen. His marriage ended in divorce in 1992.

PROFESSOR SIR GRANVILLE BEYNON

Professor Sir Granville Beynon, FRS, physicist, died on March 11 aged 81. He was born on May 24, 1914.

A DISTINGUISHED physicist, Granville Beynon made notable contributions to studies of radio propagation and the ionosphere. He published some 60 papers and edited numerous volumes on the subject. His original work included one of the earliest measurements of motions in the F region—the region of the ionosphere where radio waves are reflected—and, with a colleague, A. H. Shapley, the first demonstration that a strange anomalously high absorption of radio waves in winter was related to abnormal warmings in the stratosphere.

Beynon was quick to recognise the potential of developing experimental techniques. This led him to be early in the field with observations of radio signals from artificial satellites. He carried out pioneering rocket experiments to determine the height distribution of electron density in the lower ionosphere. He was also one of the first to appreciate the versatility of the incoherent scatter technique—a technique whereby use is made of radio signals scattered by electrons.

In this context, Beynon was the prime mover in the development of the European Incoherent Scatter Facility (EISCAT), the most advanced incoherent scatter system in the world, situated in Scandinavia, for high latitude studies. He provided the main thrust in establishing a national radar facility at Aberystwyth to investigate small-scale movements in the middle atmosphere at temperate latitudes.

William John Granville Beynon was born at Dunvant, near Swansea, and educated locally, first at what was then Gowerton Grammar School and then at the University College of Wales, Aberystwyth. After the award of a PhD there, he joined the scientific staff of the radio



division of the National Physical Laboratory, Slough, in 1937, where he became the principal assistant to Professor (later Sir) Edward Appleton. This set the scene for Beynon's future direction of research, and started a collaboration which continued until Appleton's death in 1965.

Beynon returned to the University of Wales in 1946, where he remained for the rest of his working life, holding first a lectureship in physics and later, from 1958, the Chair of Physics at Aberystwyth. He retired in 1981.

In parallel with his research, Beynon increasingly administrative ability to international co-operation in science. He was heavily involved with the International Geophysical Year and later, from 1958, the Chair of Physics at Aberystwyth. He

outside his work, he had a lifelong passion for classical music (especially that of Bach) and was himself an accomplished violin player. He was an energetic gardener, a wiley opponent in a game of snooker and an accomplished and amusing teller of stories.

Granville Beynon is survived by his wife Megan, and by their daughter and two sons.

René Clément, French film director, died on March 17 aged 82. He was born on March 18, 1913.

RENÉ CLÉMENT's career as a film director took a long time to get started, enjoyed an intense but brief flowering, and then went into a long, wilting decline. Even at his most brilliant, he belonged to the senior school of Marcel Carné, the sort of film-maker who could do a highly professional job with a good, literate script and a capable cast. But never quite—in the eyes of the Young Turks of *cahiers du cinéma* at least—did he make it into that inner circle of recognised auteurs, every one of whose works became automatically an expression of their own personal aesthetic and philosophy.

Unfortunately, during Clément's heyday and for years afterwards, *cahiers du cinéma* were the final arbiters in France of which film-makers were intellectually in, and which were out. Consequently, no sooner had Clément impressed the world with *Les Jeux interdits* (1952), the type of film which he represented dropped from fashionable regard and was relegated instead, with varying degrees of patronage or hostility, to the ranks of the stodgy, boring "cinéma de papa".

In addition, *Jeux interdits*, a story of children against a background of war, had somehow offended the French Government. It was rejected by the Cannes Film Festival and there was quite a fight before it could be shown at all. On the

other hand, it won the Golden Lion at the Venice Festival that year, and was given the Oscar as best foreign film in 1953, thus laying the foundations of Clément's international reputation.

Much of the rest of his film-making was done in the dangerous sphere of international coproduction, and sometimes suffered from the compromises and indecisions of the genre. Arguably he would have worked more comfortably, and put a more personal mark on his films, if he had remained more within the French cinema.

Certainly those of his works which have survived best are the most completely French, and the non-French elements are generally the weakest. In *Gervaise* (1956), for instance, a version of Zola's searing novel

L'Assommoir, what still impresses is the meticulous re-creation of working-class Paris in the 1880s. But Marie Schell's sentimental performance in the title role has faded terribly (though at the time it won her the best actress award at the Venice Festival and a Hollywood contract).

Barrière contre le Pacifique (The Sea Wall, 1958) was the first filming of a Marguerite Duras novel and was visually and atmospherically impressive, but finally fell victim to its multilingual cast.

At least in its beginnings

Clément's film-making could

hardly have been more

French. Born in Bordeaux, he

originally set out to be an

architect, studying at the École

des Beaux Arts, but had

already started to make ama-

teur shorts when he was 18.

When he was 20 his father

died, and realising that he

could not afford to continue

with his architectural studies,

he went into the cinema in-

stead working, as opportunity

offered, as a writer, camera-

man and assistant director.

In 1936 he directed the

young Jacques Tati in a com-

edy short, *Soline ton gauche*.

His political documentary

L'Arable interdite, made the

next year, got him into all sorts

of trouble, including being

arrested three times. During

the war he continued to make

shorts, one of which, *Ceux du*

rail (1942), prepared the way

for his first feature film, *La*

Brutille du rail (1946). This

was a semi-documentary dra-

ma about the Resistance, us-

ing mainly non-professional

actors, which placed him

alongside the new Italian Neo-

Realists rather than anyone

else then working in France.

At about this time Clément

was the founder, with the

cameraman Henri Alekijn and the

screenwriter (later director)

Colette Audry, of a cinema club

which evolved into the im-

mensely influential IDHEC

film school. After working as

technical director with Co-

teau on *La Belle et la Bête* and

Noel-Noël, *Le Père tranquille* (another story of the

Resistance), in 1947 he made

his first mainstream fiction

film, *Les Maudits* (The

Damned), set entirely on

a German submarine.

Next he made *Au delà des*

grilles, starring Jean Gabin and Isa Miranda, a love story

set in Geneva for which Clém-

ent won the best director

award at Cannes, Miranda



the best actress award, and the film an Oscar for best foreign film.

Then in 1952 came *Jeux interdits*, and Clément was for the moment the most feted French director worldwide. He followed that with a film which had very little success at the time, but in retrospect

looks more and more like his masterpiece, *Knave of Hearts* (*Monsieur Ripois*), an Anglo-French coproduction starring Gerard Philippe as a young Frenchman in London, was a black comedy which showed off the beauty of London and the attractions of such elegant English actresses as Joan

Greenwood and Valerie Hobson, all of whom fall prey to his practised continental charm.

After this peak most of Clément's subsequent career was a steady decline. His most famous later film was the three-hour French/American coproduction *Is Paris Burning?* (1966), a last return to the subject of the Resistance and the liberation of Paris, in which a nugget of grainy truth was swallowed in all-star casting and glossy production values. Probably his best later film was *Plein soleil* (Purple Noon, 1959), an adaptation of an ambiguous and decadent Patricia Highsmith novel in which Alain Delon was expertly cast as the charming, murderous hero, and Clément experimented mildly in New Wave techniques like the jump-cut. After *La Baby-Sitter* in 1975 Clément retired from film-making, content (or fairly content) to assume the rôle of elder statesman.

In 1984 he received an honorary César (the French equivalent of the Oscar) as a lifetime achievement award. Though his work has long been out of fashion, and to a large extent unseen, a recent reappearance of *Jeux interdits* left younger generations vociferously demanding where this great film had been kept hidden all their lives. Though many of his films will no doubt remain in the shadows, it is hard to imagine that his three or four best works will not reassume their place in the pantheon, just as the long unfashionable films of Marcel Carné have done.

ON THIS DAY

March 22, 1899

It was probably not the first, and certainly not the last, Russian famine. In some places starving people had sold even their clothing and household goods to buy food

then the needs of the population have increased. Moreover, it must be clearly understood that official allowances of 35lb. of grain per month are given only to non



ARTS 33-35

Richard O'Brien invites audiences to join him in Hell



EDUCATION 36

Jack Straw and a fiery baptism in politics



SPORT 39-44

Hastings looking to play for more than kicks

HOW EFFICIENT IS YOUR COMPANY?
Facilities Management: 24-page pullout today

THE TIMES

BUSINESS EDITOR Lindsay Cook

FRIDAY MARCH 22 1996

Exchange clears way for trading revolution

By ROBERT MILLER

THE warning factions at the London Stock Exchange yesterday buried their differences and confirmed plans to introduce the most radical changes to the way shares are bought and sold since Big Bang in 1986.

The board of the Exchange said it had accepted a proposal from one of its steering committees to introduce a public limit order book in the FT-SE 100 stocks. The new electronic order-matching service, which will eliminate the spread between the buy and sell price for shares, could be extended to other stocks listed on the London Exchange if the initial pilot scheme proves successful.

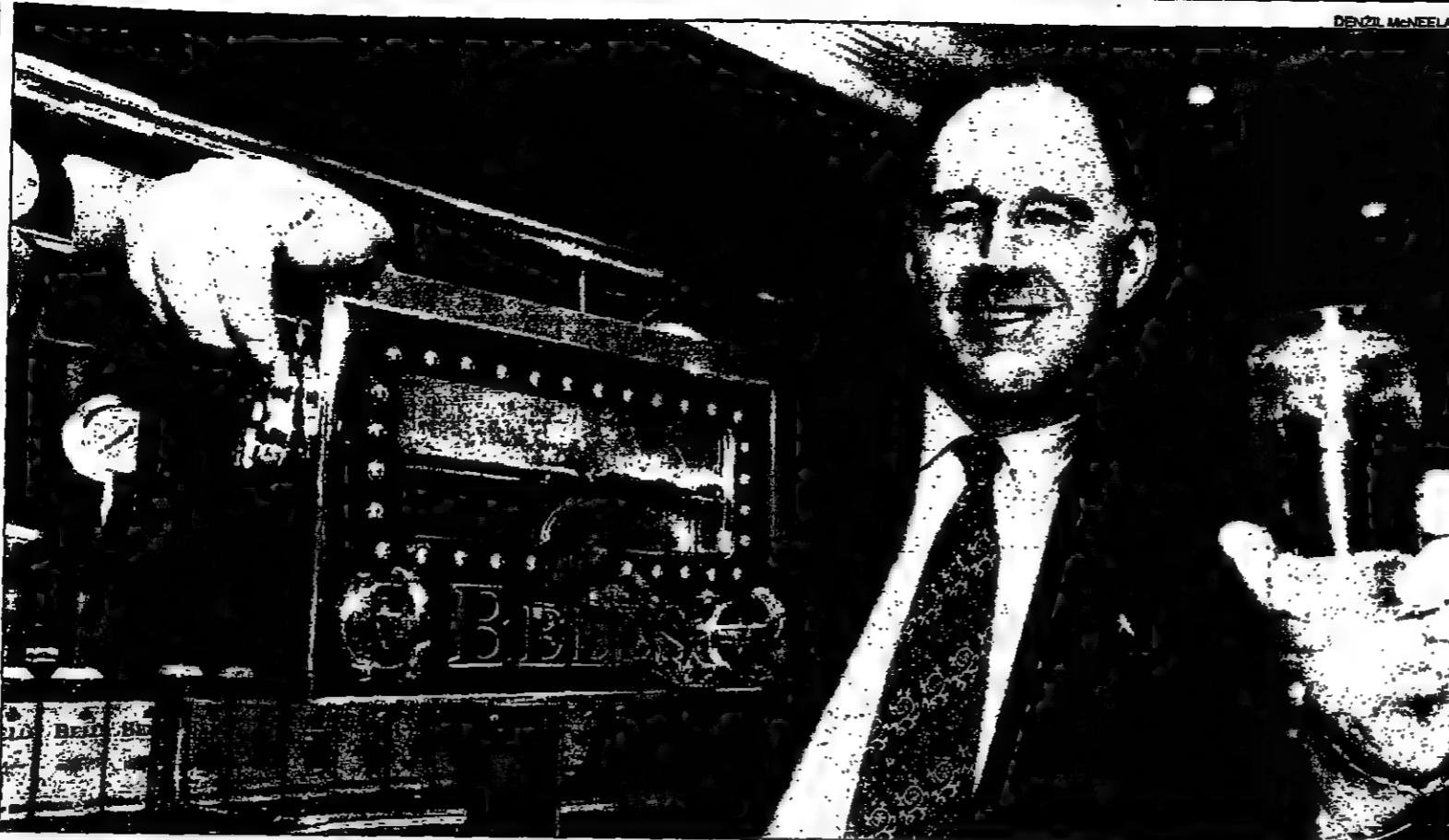
The Stock Exchange said last night that the interests of private investors, as well as the major professional market players, would be safeguarded. Before the new system can be introduced, however, an extensive consultation exercise will have to be undertaken with market users and the various watchdogs that oversee City regulation.

The Exchange's board announced that there will be a second round of consultation beginning in May and timed to end in June. Spring 1997 is the earliest possible date pencilled in for introduction of the new order matching service.

Leading retail stockbrokers yesterday expressed reservations about the new system. Justin Urquhart Stewart, a director of Barclays Stockbrokers, said it would be unfortunate if brokers were caught out because they were trying to provide the best service for customers while trying to satisfy the new demands imposed on them by regulators. He also called for an "extensive education" campaign to explain how the new system would affect private clients.

David Jones, chief executive of Sharelink, the UK's largest retail stockbroker, said: "Our concern is that the trading system will become a hybrid one and we have already expressed our reservations in writing to the Commons Treasury Select Committee. Our main problem is that if we do follow the proposals as they are the UK is in serious danger of losing out on a great opportunity to become the world's leading capital market."

Giles Vardey, director of markets development and marketing at the Stock Exchange, said: "This is a complex and important decision and we believe that further debate will help ensure that the final framework and detailed application will work for the whole market place."



Tony Greener is reviewing the possibility of a Guinness share buyback scheme but says talk of a major acquisition in the spirits trade is overdone

Severn joins bidding for South West Water

By CHRISTINE BUCKLEY

A BID war for South West Water was triggered yesterday when Severn Trent moved to buy the company, which already has a proposal from Wessex Water on its way to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission.

A fight would be hotly contested not only on the price for the company but also on reductions in customer bills that the bidders would offer. Price cuts, already a prime consideration for the water regulator, will gain additional political weight as a general election looms.

The move by Severn, which surprised many in the City, will also have to go before the MMC under the Water Industry Act so shareholders will see no firm offers on the table until late summer when the commission is likely to rule.

Frank Dobson, Labour's environment spokesman, yesterday pressed for customer benefits from the potential

takeover of South West which has the highest water bills in the country and has been criticised for pouring water into the sea and separately containing supplies. He said: "The regulator and the Government must make sure that these amalgamations don't allow the companies to hide savings in the accounts so that the customers don't get their fair share of any savings that might occur."

Price cuts of at least 15 per cent are thought to be inevitable if the regulator is to follow cuts applied to Lyonnaise des Eaux, the French utility which bought Northumbrian Water.

Both potential bidders will be under pressure to deliver price cuts not only to the customers of South West but also to their own. A move to introduce cuts for the South West without commensurate cuts for existing customers will be viewed by consumer



Cocker: operations review

Thames turns tide of diversification

By CHRISTINE BUCKLEY

THAMES WATER yesterday took a knife to businesses that have lost the company £70 million in the past six years in a sweeping disposal programme that cost the job of the chief executive.

Mike Hoffman, who was largely responsible for the much-criticised diversification strategy of the utility, left yesterday while his severance was still being negotiated. He is expected to take a pay-off of at least £500,000 after the company made a one-off

charge of £95 million for disposing of overseas businesses that Mr Hoffman helped to introduce to the London company's portfolio.

Nine businesses, mostly overseas, are being sold and about 500 jobs are expected to go as Thames moves to refocus on its core water utility functions. The bulk of job losses will occur overseas, although Thames is also reorganising some UK functions as part of the streamlining.

Mr Hoffman's position will

not be filled. The company will be headed by Sir Robert Clarke, non-executive chairman since last year. He becomes executive chairman while Bill Alexander, managing director of the Thames Water Utilities division, becomes managing director for all the company's operations.

David Luffram, finance director, admitted that the businesses that are up for sale were mistaken purchases.

Assets are being written down to the tune of £50

million on the businesses as Thames expects to get less than their book value. It is putting £30 million of goodwill associated with the operations through the profit and loss account as accounting standards dictate. The further £15 million making up the £95 million charge will cover reorganisation costs.

The company's shake-out was well received in the City with many utilities analysts calling it overdue. Shares in Thames rose 17p to 575p.

MMC caps classifieds in BT's Yellow Pages

By ERIC REGULY

THE Monopolies and Mergers Commission (MMC) recommended yesterday that price controls be placed on the classified advertising rates charged by the Yellow Pages after concluding that the business, one of BT's most profitable, had exploited its monopoly position.

The findings, which were accepted by the Department of Trade and Industry, means that advertising rates will have to fall by 2 per cent a year in real terms for a three-year period starting in the autumn. John Condon, managing director of the Yellow Pages, was "disappointed" with the price cap but said it would not

necessarily lead to a decline in operating profits. They "won't rise as fast," he said. Operating profits were £138 million on sales of £388 million in 1994-95 and the return on sales was a lofty 41 per cent.

Advertising rates have been raised by 4-5 per cent a year since the early 1990s. Mr Condon said efficiency gains, including expansion into new businesses such as electronic and on-line publishing, would allow the company to cope with the price cap.

The Yellow Pages must also publish financial accounts that are separate from BT and stop publishing more than one directory in a given market.

Penzance, page 25

Inflation falls to a 15-month low

By JANET BUSH, ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT

BRITAIN'S headline inflation rate fell to its lowest level for 15 months in February, largely because of cheaper mortgages but also because of the petrol price war between supermarkets.

The headline rate eased to 2.7 per cent, from 2.9 per cent in January. However, the underlying rate, the Government's target, edged up to 2.9 per cent, from 2.8 per cent, reflecting price rises for food, personal goods and leisure goods. RPIX, the inflation measure that excludes mortgage interest payments and indirect taxes, remained 2.5 per cent.

The City had expected the underlying rate to fall with

Penzance, page 25

دكتور من الأجل

SPORT 39-44

Hastings looking to play for more than kicks

HOW EFFICIENT IS YOUR COMPANY?
Facilities Management: 24-page pullout today

BUSINESS TODAY

STOCK MARKET

	FT-SE 100	Yield	FT-SE All share	Nikkei 225	Dow Jones	S&P Composite
	3986.3	4.01%	1539.6	1027.53	5641.69	5620.35
	(+7.29)	(+0.12)	(+284.93)	(+284.93)	(-13.73)	(+0.38)

U.S. RATE

	Federal Funds	Long Bond	Yield
	4.00%	5.50%	6.50%
	(5.50%)	(6.50%)	(6.50%)

LONDON MONEY

	3-month Bank	6-month future (Jun)	10-year
	8.00%	8.00%	10.50%
	(8.00%)	(8.00%)	(10.50%)

STERLING

	New York	London	DM	FFP	Yen	Euro
	1.5385*	1.5380	2.2688	2.2670	12.7665	1.1925
	(1.5385)	(1.5380)	(2.2688)	(2.2670)	(12.7665)	(1.1925)

U.S. DOLLAR

	London	DM	FFP	Yen	Euro
	1.4778*	1.4743	5.0485	11.925	1.1925
	(1.4778)	(1.4743)	(5.0485)	(11.925)	(1.1925)

YEN

	London close	Yen 108.48
	108.48	108.48
	(108.48)	(108.48)

* denotes midday trading price

** denotes opening price

† denotes closing price

‡ denotes average price

§ denotes latest price

** denotes latest price

† denotes latest price

‡ denotes latest price

§ denotes latest price

** denotes latest price

† denotes latest price

‡ denotes latest price

§ denotes latest price

** denotes latest price

† denotes latest price

‡ denotes latest price

§ denotes latest price

** denotes latest price

† denotes latest price

‡ denotes latest price

§ denotes latest price

** denotes latest price

Short Bros confirms plan to shed jobs

By ROSS TIEMAN
INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

SHORT BROTHERS has confirmed plans to shed 800 workers who made wings and other parts for Fokker, the collapsed Dutch aircraft-maker, and warned that 300 more could go unless government aid was available to retrain them.

Although only 300 compulsory redundancies are expected, a further 250 volunteers are expected, while 340 temporary workers will not be re-employed.

The job cuts, by the biggest private sector employer in Northern Ireland, will hit hard in a community already suffering an unemployment rate of 11.9 per cent, the highest in the United Kingdom.

Receivers are expected to order the completion of only 12 or 15 jet and turboprop airliners left on Fokker's production line. Output of the Fokker 70 64-seat jet and its big sister, the 110-seat Fokker 100, had been running at about 40 aircraft a year.

The job cuts will affect nearly a fifth of Short Brothers workforce in Belfast. The company hopes government help may be available to retrain some employees for other work on new programmes.

Bombardier is said to be in talks with administrators in Amsterdam about a possible takeover of the Fokker aircraft maintenance business, which provides after-market support for airlines. Saab Aircraft of Sweden confirmed discussions about parts of the Fokker business.

TOURIST RATES

	Bank Buy	Bank Sell
Australia \$	2.08	1.92
Austria Sch	15.98	15.48
Bulgaria L	49.95	45.25
Canada \$	2.188	2.028
Cyprus Cyp2	0.784	0.669
Denmark Kr	9.38	8.68
Egypt £	7.62	6.77
France Fr	8.18	7.53
Germany DM	2.42	2.21
Greece Dr	391.00	385.00
Hong Kong \$	12.53	11.71
Iceland Kr	1.02	0.94
Israel She	5.1400	4.4900
Italy Lira	2498.00	2343.00
Japan Yen	170.00	161.98
Malta L	0.523	0.508
Netherlands Gld	2.693	2.483
New Zealand \$	2.38	2.17
Norway Kr	10.45	9.77
Portugal Esc	240.50	227.00
R Africa Rd	6.68	5.78
Spain Pta	198.00	185.00
Sweden Kr	10.98	10.79
Switzerland Fr	1.57	1.57
Turkey Lira	111048.	102048.
USA \$	1.684	1.504

Rates for small denomination bank notes as supplied by Barclays Bank PLC. Details apply to £10 and £20 cheques. Rates as at close of trading yesterday.



David Kendall, chairman of Blagden Industries, joins Richard Searle, chief executive, and David Roach, finance director, in looking to the next phase of development after the steel drum, chemicals and protective equipment group, returned to the dividend list with a 2p final payout. It reported pre-tax profits of £9.06 million in the year to December 31, against a provision-driven loss of £5.6 million last time

British Gas seeks new TransCo price formula

By CHRISTINE BUCKLEY

BRITISH GAS yesterday drew further battle lines between its pipeline business and the industry regulator, who is close to imposing pricing curbs on TransCo, the profitable distribution arm.

The company, whose chairman, Richard Giordano, has said that a referral to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission over TransCo's pricing is almost inevitable, is pushing for a different pricing formula and a shake-up of the regulatory constraints operating on it. The decision on the five-year pricing programme,

which will be announced in the next few months by Clare Spottiswoode, the gas regulator, will be worth billions to the company.

Ms Spottiswoode has indicated that a tough price cap, based on the inflation-linked RPI-X, is likely.

British Gas said that it wanted to see the X fall to less than five — the current curb on TransCo. Philip Rogerson, executive director, said that five was far too onerous and the company would be seeking less than that to meet operating costs and to facilitate

TransCo having to bill and handle the accounts of a range of new gas suppliers separately.

Mr Rogerson also said that British Gas wanted a pricing structure that included profit-sharing, so that some of its cash would be returned to customers — the gas shippers that use the network — and shareholders. The move is under discussion with Ofgas.

The regulator, which yesterday published its progress report on the TransCo pricing negotiations, said that a decision would soon be made on whether profit-sharing could be introduced.

British Gas underlined the gulf between itself and the regulator by calling for a public contract between the two parties and arbitration in the event of disputes. Harry Moulsion, managing director of TransCo, said arbitration would prove a swifter method of solving disputes than an MMC referral, which is the only current form of appeal other than a judicial review.

Ofgas said that the first proposals on TransCo will be published on May 6, with the final recommendations available publicly on July 15.

Tempus, page 26

GM in strike agreement

FROM RICHARD THOMSON IN NEW YORK

THE strike that has shut down most of General Motors, the world's largest car maker, for 17 days appears to be at an end with an agreement between the company and the United Auto Workers. The deal will be put to a workers' vote today.

The agreement, the details of which were not disclosed by the company, will allow the 3,000 workers at two brake plants in Dayton, Ohio, who

originally went out on strike to return to work. The decision will enable GM to reopen the 26 factories forced to close because of the walkout. The brake workers had been worried about job security because of moves by the company to contract some of its work to outside companies.

The strike crippled GM's North American operations, forcing 176,000 into idleness, and caused countless workers

in supply companies across America to be laid off. Analysts said that it would have cost GM about \$2.5 billion in lost production and at least twice that in the industries that supply the company. As well as devastating production figures of the US car industry for the first quarter of this year, the shutdown will have knocked about a third off total US industrial output for the quarter, economists estimate.

Mr Rogerson also said that British Gas wanted a pricing structure that included profit-sharing, so that some of its cash would be returned to customers — the gas shippers that use the network — and shareholders. The move is under discussion with Ofgas.

The regulator, which yesterday published its progress report on the TransCo pricing negotiations, said that a decision would soon be made on whether profit-sharing could be introduced.

British Gas underlined the gulf between itself and the regulator by calling for a public contract between the two parties and arbitration in the event of disputes. Harry Moulsion, managing director of TransCo, said arbitration would prove a swifter method of solving disputes than an MMC referral, which is the only current form of appeal other than a judicial review.

Ofgas said that the first

proposals on TransCo will be published on May 6, with the final recommendations available publicly on July 15.

Tempus, page 26

Thornton takes over at Laura Ashley

By SARAH BAGNALL

THE relationship between Laura Ashley and Goldman Sachs intensified yesterday when the clothing and furnishings group announced the appointment of John Thornton, a partner at the American bank, as chairman to replace Lord Hooson, who retires in May.

Goldman Sachs is already the retailer's financial adviser, having replaced Lazarus last September shortly after the arrival of Ann Iverson as chief executive at Laura Ashley.

Furthermore, until recently Mr Thornton was adviser to Sir Bernard Ashley, widower of the company's founder and owner of 34 per cent of the shares. He relinquished this role when he was appointed a non-executive director of the retailer last July.

Ms Iverson has known Mr Thornton for several years because Goldman Sachs is adviser to Storehouse, Ms Iverson's previous employer.

It is understood that Ms Iverson employed the services of Goldman Sachs during negotiations over her appointment at Laura Ashley, which resulted in a package worth £3.4 million in pay, benefits and bonuses over three years if a series of performance targets are hit.

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

TUC urges restraint on minimum pay

TRADE unions should not expect a future Labour government to give them the right to dictate the level of the national minimum wage, John Monks, General Secretary of the Trades Union Congress, said yesterday. Unions should not become part of a "crisis of overblown expectations", he told a conference in Dundee of GMB union members from the textile industry. "We cannot hand in a shopping list and expect to go straight to the checkout counter. The TUC has recognised that a Labour government will be responsible for fixing the level of the minimum wage in the light of all the economic circumstances prevailing at the time."

But trade unions would expect Labour to push through early legislation to improve conditions for workers, he said. "Matters such as the national minimum wage should not be neglected when the new cabinet draws up its first Queen's Speech," Mr Monks said that, using the TUC formula, the national minimum wage could range from £3.60 to £4.20.

Forsyth jury still out

JURORS in the trial of Elizabeth Forsyth, former aide to Asil Nadir, were sent home for a second night after failing to reach verdicts. Deliberations resume this morning. The judge, Mr Justice Tucker, told jurors that they should try to reach unanimous verdicts, but he was prepared to accept a 10-2 majority. Mrs Forsyth, 59, of Great Dunmow, Essex, denies two counts of handling nearly £400,000 in funds allegedly stolen by Mr Nadir from Poly Peck International.

Servisair optimistic

SERVISAIR, the airport services and cargo handling company, said that while charter carriers are proposing cutbacks, scheduled operators still projected growth, and cargo volumes are expected to rise, leaving the company optimistic about prospects. In 1995 profits were £6 million (£4.3 million) before tax and exceptional items. Earnings were 10.67p a share, compared with an adjusted 9.3p. A 2.9p final makes a 4.3p total, compared with a nominal 3.8p for 1994.

Receivers in at retailer

ABOUT 300 jobs are at risk after the appointment of receivers at Everything's a £1, the discount retailer of giftware, food and cleaning products. The chain was founded in 1992, based on America's dollar-store concept. The first 27 stores opened in Gateshead. Although turnover has risen to £12 million a year, the business has lost £2 million since inception. Scott Barnes, head of corporate recovery at Grant Thornton, said talks were under way with potential buyers.

Bid for Thornton unit

TR PACIFIC Investment Trust yesterday launched a hostile bid for Thornton's Asian Emerging Markets Investment Trust. TR Pacific, which has £155 million under management compared with Thornton's £140 million, is offering Thornton investors new TR Pacific Ordinary shares or a cash alternative. Thornton Asian had already announced plans to restructure following a period of underperformance against regional benchmarks and other similar trusts.

Cattles achieves 42% rise

CATTLES, the financial services group, achieved a 42 per cent rise, to £28.2 million, in profits before tax and exceptional items in 1995. The company's Shopacheck, Britain's second-largest weekly collected credit company, has 3,000 agents and, before the year end, acquired almost £4 million of book debt and a further 12,000 customers. Earnings per share rose to 14p, from an adjusted 11.3p. The total dividend rises to 6.9p (5.75p) with a 4.45p final. The shares rose 5p, to 240p.

Rea Brothers ahead

REA BROTHERS, the banking and financial services group, yesterday announced a 15 per cent increase in profits to £1.16 million, from £1.16 million, but held the total dividend at 1p, with 0.5p final. During 1995, Rea launched two new investment trusts through Finsbury Asset Management, including the Finsbury Technology Trust. Earnings per share advanced to 2.08p, against 2.01p last time. The shares fell 1p to 59p.

Dresdner Bank search

PUBLIC prosecutors in Germany yesterday revealed that tax officers had searched Dresdner Bank's main office in Hamburg and several branches. Prosecutor Ruediger Bagger declined to give details about the search, saying the investigation was continuing. It is the sixth big raid in a two-year investigation at Germany's second largest bank. Employees at the bank have been suspected of aiding clients in avoiding tax payments by moving funds abroad.

Manders fights slump

SHARES of Manders fell 12p to 313p yesterday after the international coatings and printing inks specialist said that its markets remain depressed and selling prices are under intense pressure. Roy Arnos, chairman, said sales in the first two months of the current year were in line with 1995. He expressed confidence in achieving organic growth in 1996. In 1995 pre-tax profits rose 4 per cent to £12.3 million. A final dividend of 8.4p lifts the total to 11.5p from 11p.

Logica wins CAA deal

LOGICA, the computer services group, is today expected to announce it has won a £3.5 million consultancy contract from the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA). Logica has signed a deal with the CAA to provide strategic consultancy for the research and development directorate of the National Air Traffic Service (NATS) over a two-year period. As leader of the ATC Research Consortium, Logica will support research into the development of future air traffic control concepts.

CBI finds a slump in orders

By PHILIP BASSETT, INDUSTRIAL EDITOR

MANUFACTURING orders are at their lowest for well over two years, according to evidence today from the Confederation of British Industry. However, companies' expectations for output growth remain high, the CBI says in its latest monthly industrial trends survey.

City analysts will see such low levels of orders as further evidence for another interest rate cut, though Adair Turner, Director-General of the CBI, expects the economy to pick up towards the end of the year.

Looking at more than 1,000 manufacturing companies, the CBI's survey for March shows that manufacturers' total order books weakened again and are now at their lowest for a monthly CBI survey since December 1993. The net balance of firms reporting order books below normal was -15 per cent in March, slightly worse than -14 per cent last month and the -13 per cent in January, and continuing a downward trend that began last September.

Overseas demand also weakened. Export order books are now running at their lowest level for two years, since March 1994, and are now considered below normal by a net balance of 5 per cent of companies surveyed. This compares with a

positive balance of 1 per cent last month.

Such demand is not reflected in the relative optimism in manufacturers' expectations on output growth. A net 24 per cent expect output to rise, against 20 per cent last month and 16 per cent in January.

Sudhir Junankar, CBI associate economic analysis director, says that the pick-up on output expectations suggests growing short-term confidence among companies, but adds: "With firms also continuing to report excessive stocks of finished goods, the output optimism seen in this survey could be more fragile than companies expect."



Turner: forecasts pick up

National Provident Institution Notice of Annual General Meeting

Notice is hereby given that the 160th Annual General Meeting of members of National Provident Institution will be held at the City Conference Centre, 76 Mark Lane, London EC3, on Wednesday, 17 April 1996, at 12.00 noon, for the transaction of the following ordinary business:

- * To receive and adopt the Accounts and Report of the Directors for the year ended 31 December 1995;
- * To reappoint as a Director, Mr A C Barker;
- * To reappoint as a Director, Mr J D Carter;
- * To reappoint as a Director, Baroness Hogg;
- * To reappoint as a Director, Mr L J Martin;
- * To reappoint as a Director, Mr D J M Roberts;
- * To reappoint as a Director, Mr J J H Wormell.

(All of the above Directors are members of the Remuneration Committee)

- * To reappoint Coopers & Lybrand as Auditors and to authorise the Directors to determine their remuneration.
- * To increase the upper limit of each Non-Executive Director's basic fee to £25,000 per annum, and subject to this limit, to authorise the Directors to determine the rate of the basic fee.

BY ORDER OF THE BOARD: Steven O'Brien, Company Secretary.
Principal Office: National Provident House, 55 Calverley Road, Tunbridge Wells, Kent TN1 2UE.

NOTE: A member entitled to attend and vote at the general meeting is entitled to appoint a proxy to attend and, on a poll, to vote instead of him or her. A proxy need not be a member of NPI. Proxy forms are available on request from the Company Secretary at the Principal Office. Completed proxy forms must be deposited at the Principal Office not later than 12 noon on 15 April 1996.



Top men leave a water industry at low ebb Power struggle that holds key to inflation Stock Exchange takes the plunge

LAST summer Mike Hoffman was the shiny, bright face of the water industry. While he was touring the offices of opinion formers spreading the gospel, Trevor Newton was holed up in Yorkshire, the dirty face of the industry, trying not to use any of the precious stuff to wash in. This week they were as one as the unacceptable faces of an industry that might not be able to supply 18 million households this year, whether we have the worst drought for 40 years or not.

Thames Water announced yesterday that Mr Clean is to leave his post as chief executive under a rain cloud while Mr Dirty said on Monday that he was going to take an early bath.

At Thames, where the proud boast - shouted loud by Mr Hoffman - was that there were no water restrictions last summer or any recent summer since its ring main was operational, Mr Hoffman, an engineer at heart, is now surplus to requirements. The company will not need a chief executive any more and will not be seeking a replacement.

What Thames, Yorkshire and all the other water companies need is someone to make them bid-proof. As Severn Trent was telling the Stock Exchange that it too wants to bid for South West Water, the company that managed to lose a reservoir and separately poison

customers paying the highest water bills in the country, Thames was taking a £95 million one-off hit. This, remarkably, included £30 million of goodwill, a commodity that many thought had run out long ago in the industry. Thames is now to stick to its core utility business - no more forays into India and other far-flung places to try to leach water preservation and distribution. Nine businesses are being sold after costing £26 million in losses last year.

Yorkshire might also try this novel approach of ensuring that all its customers have water delivered to their home without restriction and without the use of tankers instead of trying to sell its expertise abroad. Northumbrian provider of the water that kept Yorkshire afloat, has already fallen to the French.

The battle between Wesser, Severn Trent and whoever else decides to take a pop at South West Water is likely to be lengthy as the Monopolies and Mergers Commission ponders whether customers will be disadvantaged by having their water supplied by a giant instead of a minnow.

Meanwhile, the Water Services Association loses its chairman in Mr Hoffman, and must seek a new honest face to explain why we will not have enough water this summer unless we have a miserable wet spring. The answer will have nothing to do with leaking pipes not being repaired, nor lack of capital investment. The need for universal water meters, and the heavy investment that would require from the companies is also likely to be avoided, as the industry does not want to pay.

But whoever gets the job should be in line for a big pay off sooner or later.

Underlying gloom

IT IS a mark of how good Britain's inflation performance has been over the past couple of years that a tiny rise in the underlying rate yesterday was greeted with resignation and gloom in the City: gloom because it is obvious, isn't it, that inflation is coming back with a vengeance; resignation because Kenneth

Clarke is going to cut interest rates again anyway to close the opinion poll gap.

In fact, there was lots of good news on the inflation front in yesterday's figures and in statisticians' view of the outlook in the months ahead. There was precious little bounce back in prices for clothing and footwear and household goods in February after record-breaking price discounts in the January sales. The annual rate of services inflation fell to 2.1 per cent, the same level as in December. But the rate in both these months was the lowest since May 1986.

And the supermarket price wars continue. The major chains are daggers drawn on petrol and there are more price cuts to

come. There is still fierce competition too on selected food brands. Tinned baked beans, we are told, is the next big fight looming. Washing up liquid is another field of battle. And, in the months to come, there will be more good news on the mortgage front. This reflects not only a drive by lenders to restart the housing market but the intensifying ideological battle lines being drawn between mutuality and public and bank ownership of building societies.

The answer to these questions rest in consumer psychology and that is a notoriously difficult science to master.

Order matching ahoy

NO ONE (let alone an incumbent chief executive) can ever be quite sure what a Stock Exchange board meeting might portend but, mercifully, the outcome of yesterday's gathering was much in line with recent market intelligence.

The brave new world of "order matching" trading, in contrast to the traditional "quote driven" system, is on the way, albeit somewhat later than Michael Lawrence, the Stock Exchange's former chief executive, originally envisaged. Last November the message was that order driven trading would arrive in August when Sequence VI, the new electronic trading platform, goes live. Sequence VI remains on schedule but the introduction of order matching has been postponed until the spring of 1997, pending a "final" test.

The Stock Exchange has always been coy about how many stocks would be covered by the system favoured by some, but by no means all, end users. After dwelling on the top 350 companies, the Tower has finally settled for the FTSE 100 counters, with an option to extend coverage.

This, in turn, will be combined with "block trading" which will permit "large players" to continue to take risks and commit capital". For "large players" read the market-makers who, as before, will provide liquidity at a price.

Talks with the Treasury, the SIB, the OFT and the SFA start shortly. Precious little has been said about the benefits or otherwise for the private investor, a factor that the authorities might wish to bear in mind.

Hard sell

Overcharging by JR Hartley should be the next book to be promoted by those fey television advertisements for Yellow Pages. Yesterday the BT subsidiary, renowned for helping us find the better things in life, was rapped by the Monopolies Commission for acting against the public interest in overcharging for its advertisements and exploiting its monopoly position. Not quite the values extolled by Mr Hartley.

BET targets £142m to foil Rentokil

By ALASDAIR MURRAY

BET yesterday hit back at Rentokil's £1.9 billion takeover bid, forecasting a 28 per cent increase in full-year profits to £142 million before tax.

BET shares rose 3p to close at 203p, their highest level since the bid was launched last month as the City speculated Rentokil would now have to return with a higher offer. Rentokil shares rose also, by 6.5p to 354p, valuing the bid at 188p a share. Yesterday Rentokil shareholders voted in favour of the bid at an extraordinary meeting.

BET promised a dividend forecast for 1997 by the close of the bid period and repeated its commitment to raise the dividend by 27.5 per cent to 5.1p a share for the year ended March 1996. The company also predicted a 10 per cent increase in group turnover to £1.94 billion.

John Clark, chief executive, said: "This is tangible proof that BET is delivering on promises. These results demonstrate that BET has an exciting independent future and that Rentokil's offer is wholly inadequate." Sir Chris-

topher Harding, chairman, further described the Rentokil bid as reminiscent of a 1980's conglomerate bid with little overlap, strategy or value.

But Clive Thompson, Rentokil chief executive, said: "If this is the best the BET board can do, we continue to wonder why it doesn't recommend our offer." Rentokil claimed the profit forecast was barely above previously forecast levels and did not contain the 10 per cent uplift the market had been anticipating. Rentokil now has until Easter to increase its offer, with analysts forecasting a bid would need to be pitched at about 220p a share.

BET concentrated its fire on Rentokil's 179.5p cash offer. The sum represents a price earnings multiple of 16.6 times forecast earnings a share and stood at a 32.7 per cent discount to Rentokil's own market rating. The company also pointed out the offer price valued the BET element of a merged group as only 33 per cent of the total, although BET would be providing 42 per cent of the profit.

Tempus, page 26

Irish Life to offer new deals

By MARIANNE CURPHEY

IRISH LIFE is to spend £1610 million to contact 110,000 policyholders whose unit-linked savings plans have produced disappointing returns to offer them alternative investments.

Each policy's return will be assessed individually and savers, most of whom bought their plan in the late 1980s and 1990s, will be given the chance to switch to a product giving a guaranteed return.

Irish Life, Ireland's largest life assurance company, announced yesterday it had increased its embedded value earnings, or profits, by 22 per cent in 1995 to £189 million. New business (premium income) rose by 8 per cent to £1405 million.

Earnings rose from 111.22p a share to 111.59p and the total dividend is 111.02p, up from 111.29p. The shares closed with a gain of 3p to 263p.

APV goes back into the black

By SARAH CUNNINGHAM

APV, maker of food and drink processing equipment, reported a return to profit yesterday, demonstrating the benefits of a restructuring programme launched in January last year.

Sir Peter Cazale, chairman, announced he will retire on September 30. He will be succeeded by Mike Smith, an executive director of BTR until last September.

APV made a pre-tax profit of £26.9 million last year, compared with a loss of £18.2 million. The improvement reflects higher margins and earnings from disposals. The company said its increased profitability should make up for a 5 per cent fall in the value of orders received in the first two months of this year.

Final restructuring this and next year mean an exceptional charge of £10.5 million for 1995 compared with £32.5 million. There is an unchanged full-year dividend of 27p.

Tempus, page 26

Grattan stake sold

By MARTIN BARROW

THE 15 per cent stake in Grattan, the catalogue and mail order business, owned by Fine Art Developments, the UK greeting card company, is being sold to Otto Versand, the German retail group, for about £25 million.

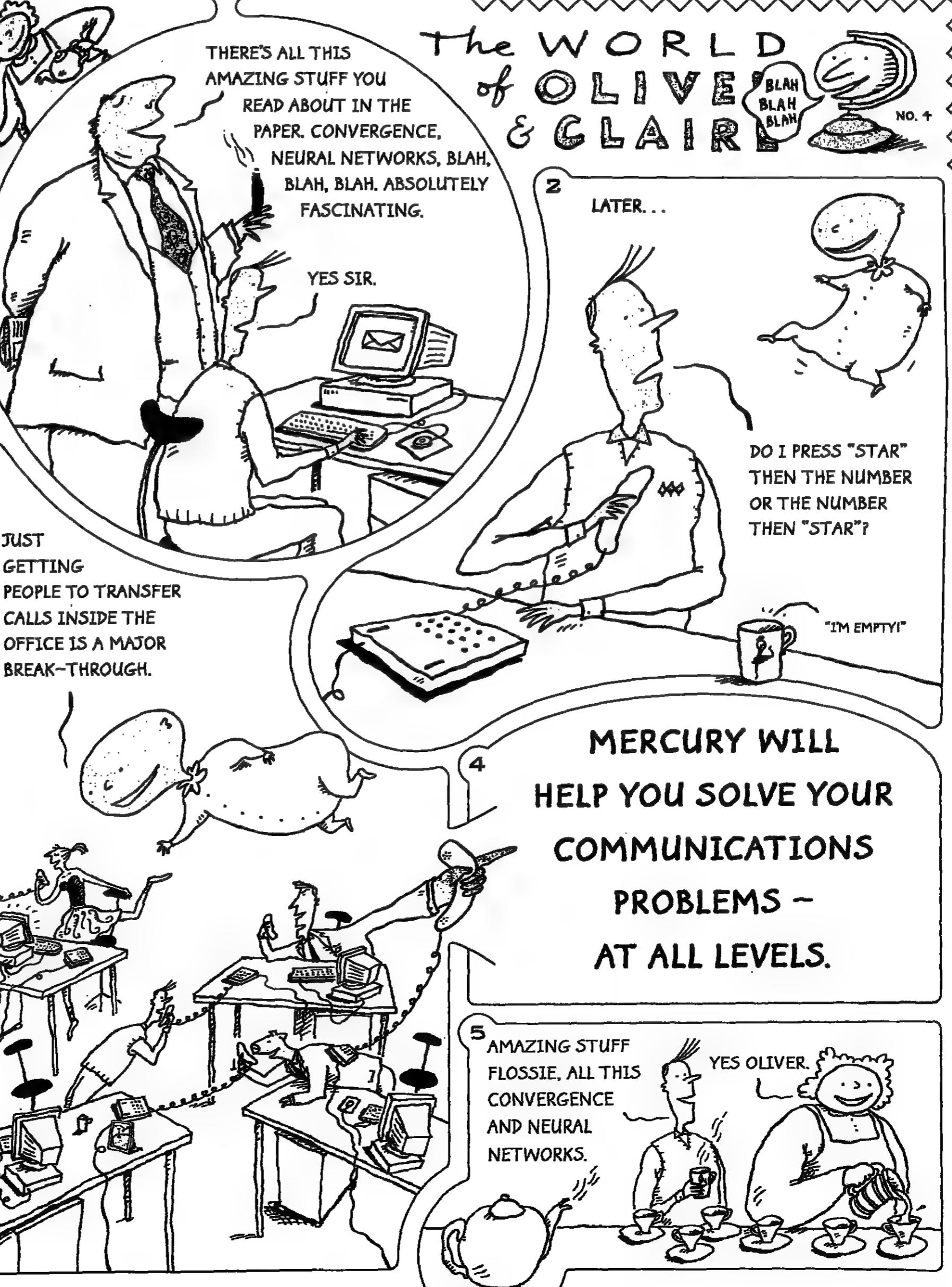
Fine Art will receive an initial consideration of £12.02 million later this month, with the balance due in March next year.

The Grattan interest was acquired by Fine Art during 1991 and 1992, and the cost of the investment was £12.02 million. The proceeds of the

sale will be used to reduce bank borrowings. Shares in Fine Art rose 1p to 429p yesterday.

Fine Art, which sells a wide range of merchandise through mail order catalogues, saw profits stagnate at £38 million before tax in the last full financial year and has been exploring ways to develop the business in the face of difficult trading conditions.

In the first half of the current year, the company reported a rise in pre-tax profits to £6.2 million, from £5.78 million.



FreeCall 0500 500 400

Mercury Communications Limited, 26 Red Lion Square, London WC1R 4HQ.

<http://www.mercury.co.uk>

A MEMBER OF THE CABLE & WIRELESS GROUP

 MERCURY
COMMUNICATIONS

When mankind meets machine, Mercury can help.

STOCK MARKET

MICHAEL CLARK

Severn joins Wessex in battle for South West

THE water companies provided a fair sprinkling of interest for City speculators as the prospect of a battle for control of South West Water loomed large. After months of inactivity they are showing signs of springing back into life, with a number expected to suffer the same fate as the regional electricity companies.

Shares of South West surged 44p to 650p after Severn Trent, its rival, slung its hat into the ring by announcing that it is seeking regulatory approval to launch a bid. South West is already the subject of an approach from Wessex Water, its next-door neighbour.

Last night City speculators were licking their lips at the prospect of an auction developing. They claim the terms from Wessex are likely to value the deal at around £700 million. Severn has already indicated that any bid it makes for SWW is likely to be made up entirely of cash.

Both predators must now wait to see if they will be given the all-clear to make a move. The general view is that the bids will receive the go-ahead, but that the regulator may demand certain conditions are met. Wessex finished 1p cheaper at 331p, while Severn Trent dropped 2p to 618p.

Elsewhere in the sector, Thames Water stood out with a rise of 17p to 753p as the City gave the thumbs-up to widening proposals aimed at restructuring the group.

Thames intends to refocus on its core utility operations and international projects, but it is withdrawing from design and construction. The move is expected to cost the group £5 million in write-offs. Michael Hoffman has resigned as chief executive.

There was selective support for the other water companies, with Southern adding 24p to 747p, Welsh Water up to 749p, and Yorkshire 1p to 655p.

The rest of the equity market succeeded in brushing the 3,700 level, albeit briefly, having reached a high for the day of 3,702.3. The FTSE 100 index finished 12.4 points up at 3,698.3 despite a lacklustre performance by the bond market and an opening fall of more than 30 points by the Dow Jones average on Wall Street. In all, \$42 million shares changed hands.

Vodafone was a firm market, rising 3.5p to 248p ahead of the deadline, later today, of



Some water companies could find themselves reshaped

the Orange retail offer. The imminent flotation of Orange has crystallised the value of the other mobile phone operators and led to some of them being re-rated.

Full-year figures from Guinness received a lukewarm reception from brokers, with the shares nursing a fall of 11.2p to 401.5p. Trading conditions in the drinks industry were rated as poor.

After reaching a new high of 507p earlier this week, Rank Organisation closed last night 8p down at 499p as turnover reached more than two million shares. Word is that County NatWest, the broker, has turned bearish and feels the shares are due for a correction.

It remains difficult, with the group having to suffer patchy demand and rising advertising and market expenditure. This was reflected in a pre-tax profit shortfall of £39 million at £576 million. Brokers say it is difficult to get excited about prospects for Guinness in the current year.

Ladbroke continued to attract speculative support, with the price firming 3p to 190p.

The rest of the equity market succeeded in brushing the 3,700 level, albeit briefly, having reached a high for the day of 3,702.3. The FTSE 100 index finished 12.4 points up at 3,698.3 despite a lacklustre performance by the bond market and an opening fall of more than 30 points by the Dow Jones average on Wall Street. In all, \$42 million shares changed hands.

Vodafone was a firm market, rising 3.5p to 248p ahead of the deadline, later today, of

up from 4p last time. It described the Rentokil bid as "wholly inadequate".

Brokers say the hot money is banking on a win for Rentokil. They claim a modest increase in the terms to around 215p a share would guarantee victory. Rentokil responded with a rise of 6.2p to 354p, valuing the terms for Rentokil at 197.5p. BET finished 3p firmer at 203p.

There was a clutch of companies making their stock market debut. The biggest was Fulmar, the contract printer, which was launched by Mike Taylor, chief executive, at the height of the miners' strike in the 1970s with the help of a £4,000 loan.

After being offered at 154p, the shares started life yesterday at 183p and ended the session at 180p, a healthy premium of 28p.

Recent talk in the marketplace has suggested a full bid from either Bass, which already owns the Holiday Inn chain, or the Hilton Hotel Group in the US. Now there is a suggestion that Scottish & Newcastle, 1p lighter at 648p, may link up with Hilton and buy the group's chain of betting shops, leaving Hilton with the hotels.

After being offered at 154p, the shares started life yesterday at 183p and ended the session at 180p, a healthy premium of 28p.

First-time dealings in Trelad, the software systems consultant, also got off to a positive start following a placing at 125p. The shares opened at 125p before closing at a peak of 178p, a premium of 43p, capitalising the company at around £45 million.

Silver Shield, the windscreen replacement specialist, opened at 312p before settling at 324p.

■ **GILT-EDGED:** Prices marked time for much of the session with investors apparently reluctant to continue chasing the market higher.

Dealers say the London market continues to reflect bond movements in the US, where the recent strong run shows signs of coming to a halt.

The latest inflation numbers were much in line with forecasts and did little to influence investors one way or the other.

In the futures market, the June series of the Long Gilt made little headway firming just a tick to close at 10105^{1/2}, with a total of 48,000 contracts completed.

Among conventional issues, Treasury 8 per cent 2015 hardened 1p to 979^{1/2}, while at the shorter end Treasury 8 per cent 2000 was 1p better at 10102^{1/2}.

■ **NEW YORK:** Wall Street went into what one investment strategist described as neutral mode and shares were mixed. By midday the Dow Jones industrial average was down 13.75 points at 5,041.69.

Source: Bloomberg

the Orange retail offer. The imminent flotation of Orange has crystallised the value of the other mobile phone operators and led to some of them being re-rated.

Full-year figures from Guinness received a lukewarm reception from brokers, with the shares nursing a fall of 11.2p to 401.5p. Trading conditions in the drinks industry were rated as poor.

After reaching a new high of 507p earlier this week, Rank Organisation closed last night 8p down at 499p as turnover reached more than two million shares. Word is that County NatWest, the broker, has turned bearish and feels the shares are due for a correction.

It remains difficult, with the group having to suffer patchy demand and rising advertising and market expenditure. This was reflected in a pre-tax profit shortfall of £39 million at £576 million. Brokers say it is difficult to get excited about prospects for Guinness in the current year.

Ladbroke continued to attract speculative support, with the price firming 3p to 190p.

The rest of the equity market succeeded in brushing the 3,700 level, albeit briefly, having reached a high for the day of 3,702.3. The FTSE 100 index finished 12.4 points up at 3,698.3 despite a lacklustre performance by the bond market and an opening fall of more than 30 points by the Dow Jones average on Wall Street. In all, \$42 million shares changed hands.

Vodafone was a firm market, rising 3.5p to 248p ahead of the deadline, later today, of

the Orange retail offer. The imminent flotation of Orange has crystallised the value of the other mobile phone operators and led to some of them being re-rated.

Full-year figures from Guinness received a lukewarm reception from brokers, with the shares nursing a fall of 11.2p to 401.5p. Trading conditions in the drinks industry were rated as poor.

After reaching a new high of 507p earlier this week, Rank Organisation closed last night 8p down at 499p as turnover reached more than two million shares. Word is that County NatWest, the broker, has turned bearish and feels the shares are due for a correction.

It remains difficult, with the group having to suffer patchy demand and rising advertising and market expenditure. This was reflected in a pre-tax profit shortfall of £39 million at £576 million. Brokers say it is difficult to get excited about prospects for Guinness in the current year.

Ladbroke continued to attract speculative support, with the price firming 3p to 190p.

The rest of the equity market succeeded in brushing the 3,700 level, albeit briefly, having reached a high for the day of 3,702.3. The FTSE 100 index finished 12.4 points up at 3,698.3 despite a lacklustre performance by the bond market and an opening fall of more than 30 points by the Dow Jones average on Wall Street. In all, \$42 million shares changed hands.

Vodafone was a firm market, rising 3.5p to 248p ahead of the deadline, later today, of

the Orange retail offer. The imminent flotation of Orange has crystallised the value of the other mobile phone operators and led to some of them being re-rated.

Full-year figures from Guinness received a lukewarm reception from brokers, with the shares nursing a fall of 11.2p to 401.5p. Trading conditions in the drinks industry were rated as poor.

After reaching a new high of 507p earlier this week, Rank Organisation closed last night 8p down at 499p as turnover reached more than two million shares. Word is that County NatWest, the broker, has turned bearish and feels the shares are due for a correction.

It remains difficult, with the group having to suffer patchy demand and rising advertising and market expenditure. This was reflected in a pre-tax profit shortfall of £39 million at £576 million. Brokers say it is difficult to get excited about prospects for Guinness in the current year.

Ladbroke continued to attract speculative support, with the price firming 3p to 190p.

The rest of the equity market succeeded in brushing the 3,700 level, albeit briefly, having reached a high for the day of 3,702.3. The FTSE 100 index finished 12.4 points up at 3,698.3 despite a lacklustre performance by the bond market and an opening fall of more than 30 points by the Dow Jones average on Wall Street. In all, \$42 million shares changed hands.

Vodafone was a firm market, rising 3.5p to 248p ahead of the deadline, later today, of

the Orange retail offer. The imminent flotation of Orange has crystallised the value of the other mobile phone operators and led to some of them being re-rated.

Full-year figures from Guinness received a lukewarm reception from brokers, with the shares nursing a fall of 11.2p to 401.5p. Trading conditions in the drinks industry were rated as poor.

After reaching a new high of 507p earlier this week, Rank Organisation closed last night 8p down at 499p as turnover reached more than two million shares. Word is that County NatWest, the broker, has turned bearish and feels the shares are due for a correction.

It remains difficult, with the group having to suffer patchy demand and rising advertising and market expenditure. This was reflected in a pre-tax profit shortfall of £39 million at £576 million. Brokers say it is difficult to get excited about prospects for Guinness in the current year.

Ladbroke continued to attract speculative support, with the price firming 3p to 190p.

The rest of the equity market succeeded in brushing the 3,700 level, albeit briefly, having reached a high for the day of 3,702.3. The FTSE 100 index finished 12.4 points up at 3,698.3 despite a lacklustre performance by the bond market and an opening fall of more than 30 points by the Dow Jones average on Wall Street. In all, \$42 million shares changed hands.

Vodafone was a firm market, rising 3.5p to 248p ahead of the deadline, later today, of

the Orange retail offer. The imminent flotation of Orange has crystallised the value of the other mobile phone operators and led to some of them being re-rated.

Full-year figures from Guinness received a lukewarm reception from brokers, with the shares nursing a fall of 11.2p to 401.5p. Trading conditions in the drinks industry were rated as poor.

After reaching a new high of 507p earlier this week, Rank Organisation closed last night 8p down at 499p as turnover reached more than two million shares. Word is that County NatWest, the broker, has turned bearish and feels the shares are due for a correction.

It remains difficult, with the group having to suffer patchy demand and rising advertising and market expenditure. This was reflected in a pre-tax profit shortfall of £39 million at £576 million. Brokers say it is difficult to get excited about prospects for Guinness in the current year.

Ladbroke continued to attract speculative support, with the price firming 3p to 190p.

The rest of the equity market succeeded in brushing the 3,700 level, albeit briefly, having reached a high for the day of 3,702.3. The FTSE 100 index finished 12.4 points up at 3,698.3 despite a lacklustre performance by the bond market and an opening fall of more than 30 points by the Dow Jones average on Wall Street. In all, \$42 million shares changed hands.

Vodafone was a firm market, rising 3.5p to 248p ahead of the deadline, later today, of

the Orange retail offer. The imminent flotation of Orange has crystallised the value of the other mobile phone operators and led to some of them being re-rated.

Full-year figures from Guinness received a lukewarm reception from brokers, with the shares nursing a fall of 11.2p to 401.5p. Trading conditions in the drinks industry were rated as poor.

After reaching a new high of 507p earlier this week, Rank Organisation closed last night 8p down at 499p as turnover reached more than two million shares. Word is that County NatWest, the broker, has turned bearish and feels the shares are due for a correction.

It remains difficult, with the group having to suffer patchy demand and rising advertising and market expenditure. This was reflected in a pre-tax profit shortfall of £39 million at £576 million. Brokers say it is difficult to get excited about prospects for Guinness in the current year.

Ladbroke continued to attract speculative support, with the price firming 3p to 190p.

The rest of the equity market succeeded in brushing the 3,700 level, albeit briefly, having reached a high for the day of 3,702.3. The FTSE 100 index finished 12.4 points up at 3,698.3 despite a lacklustre performance by the bond market and an opening fall of more than 30 points by the Dow Jones average on Wall Street. In all, \$42 million shares changed hands.

Vodafone was a firm market, rising 3.5p to 248p ahead of the deadline, later today, of

the Orange retail offer. The imminent flotation of Orange has crystallised the value of the other mobile phone operators and led to some of them being re-rated.

Full-year figures from Guinness received a lukewarm reception from brokers, with the shares nursing a fall of 11.2p to 401.5p. Trading conditions in the drinks industry were rated as poor.

After reaching a new high of 507p earlier this week, Rank Organisation closed last night 8p down at 499p as turnover reached more than two million shares. Word is that County NatWest, the broker, has turned bearish and feels the shares are due for a correction.

It remains difficult, with the group having to suffer patchy demand and rising advertising and market expenditure. This was reflected in a pre-tax profit shortfall of £39 million at £576 million. Brokers say it is difficult to get excited about prospects for Guinness in the current year.

Ladbroke continued to attract speculative support, with the price firming 3p to 190p.

The rest of the equity market succeeded in brushing the 3,700 level, albeit briefly, having reached a high for the day of 3,702.3. The FTSE 100 index finished 12.4 points up at 3,698.3 despite a lacklustre performance by the bond market and an opening fall of more than 30 points by the Dow Jones average on Wall Street. In all, \$42 million shares changed hands.

Vodafone was a firm market, rising 3.5p to 248p ahead of the deadline, later today, of

the Orange retail offer. The imminent flotation of Orange has crystallised the value of the other mobile phone operators and led to some of them being re-rated.

Full-year figures from Guinness received a lukewarm reception from brokers, with the shares nursing a fall of 11.2p to 401.5p. Trading conditions in the drinks industry were rated as poor.

After reaching a new high of 507p earlier this week, Rank Organisation closed last night 8p down at 499p as turnover reached more than two million shares. Word is that County NatWest, the broker, has turned bearish and feels the shares are due for a correction.

It remains difficult, with the group having to suffer patchy demand and rising advertising and market expenditure. This was reflected in a pre-tax profit shortfall of £39 million at £576 million. Brokers say it is difficult to get excited about prospects for Guinness in the current year.

Ladbroke continued to attract speculative support, with the price firming 3p to 190p.

The rest of the equity market succeeded in brushing the 3,700 level, albeit briefly, having reached a high for the day of 3,702.3. The FTSE 100 index finished 12.4 points up at 3,698.3 despite a lacklustre performance by the bond market and an opening fall of more than 30 points by the Dow Jones average on Wall Street. In all, \$42 million shares changed hands.

Vodafone was a firm market, rising 3.5p to 248p ahead of the deadline, later today, of

the Orange retail offer. The imminent flotation of Orange has crystallised the value of the other mobile phone operators and led to some of them being re-rated.

Full-year figures from Guinness received a lukewarm reception from brokers, with the shares nursing a fall of 11.2p to 401.5p. Trading conditions in the drinks industry were rated as poor.

**THE
TIMES**
**CITY
DIARY**

**Banking on
luxury**

GORDON Campbell Gray moved into Number One Aldwych this week, where he intends to turn the £12.5 million building, part of which was formerly a grand banking hall for Lloyds, into one of London's most prestigious hotels, and already he's planning his round-the-world tour to vet the competition.

Over three weeks, Mr Campbell Gray will stay in 20 of the world's finest hotels, including The Peninsula in Hong Kong and the Montalembert in Paris, where he'll scrutinise every detail from the softness of the hotel pillows to their shoe shine service. The Scottish managing director, who set up The Draycott in Cadogan Gardens, has even agreed to pack a camcorder, and include his findings in a fly-on-the-wall television documentary due out in September 1997, to coincide with the opening of the hotel.

Hard lines

LORD HOOSON, non-executive chairman of the Severn River Crossing, who retires as non-executive chairman of Laura Ashley on May 21, is planning to write a book on his varied career.

Lord Hooson, who first met Sir Bernard and Laura Ashley in 1963, when they only had two employees, hopes to put into print a collection of his "reflections" from his experiences as a businessman, barrister, politician and farmer. "I used to share a chamber with John Mortimer in Dr Johnson's building, so I've observed how hard he had to work," he says.



"Wessex Water, Severn Trent... it never rains but it pours"

THE morning market note that stockbrokers Panmure Gordon faxed to clients around the world was unusually to the point yesterday. Beside a pretty picture of a cow, it read: "The British people have been exposed to a new and unpleasant sickness: cash cow disease. Companies have recognised that the economy is mature and slow growing, so they are extracting cash, cutting investment to the minimum needed for maintenance and squeezing costs."

Back put out

WILL CARLING poured out his heart to doctors and nurses this week at the launch party of Pulse, the new healthcare appointments company. Resting his injured leg, the retiring England rugby captain complained of how he's bullied by his forwards. They're always the ones to choose the videos at training camp, he said, then quoted Arnold Schwarzenegger from the film Predator: "I haven't got time to bleed."

THE UK's oldest and second-largest investment trust, Foreign & Colonial, has always found a novel way of comparing the value of £1,000 invested over various time periods. It introduced a new Mars Bar Index at its annual results presentation yesterday. In 1945, a Mars Bar cost the equivalent of 1.4p. Today it costs 26p. Meanwhile, £1,000 invested in F&C would now be worth just over £1m.

The role of head offices comes under scrutiny

What value do bosses add to big companies, asks Carl Mortished



Sir Michael Perry hopes that a new top management structure will deliver better leadership

isations based on regions. Sir Michael Perry, Unilever's chairman, explained that under the previous structure, which mixed global responsibility for product strategy with bottom-line responsibility for a region, directors found themselves with conflicts of interest.

"Since each of the members of the board were dealing with factional interests of their own, it was very difficult to get complete consensus for a common strategy," he said.

Both companies show symptoms of a malaise that infects the top management of multinationals everywhere. Once-passive institutional shareholders are becoming more critical of managements and the stock market fashion is to break up large groups in the search for hidden value.

The initial response in boardrooms to shareholder pressure is to cut operating costs. But in the corporate centres of huge multinationals such as Shell and Unilever there is a more fundamental anxiety that the message from High Command is not getting through to the generals on the ground. In some cases, local operating companies receive separate conflicting messages from different arms of the organisation or even no message at all.

Last week, Unilever announced the creation of a top management structure aimed at delivering a clearer strategy and better leadership to the local operating companies. A seven-strong executive committee of the board will be responsible for strategy, while operational responsibility will be delegated to 14 business organ-

isation division, the regional co-ordinators who acted as the eyes and ears of the shareholders at local level. The new structure is based on four business groups: exploration, oil products, chemicals, and gas and coal, but Shell's new broom is aimed at addressing similar problems: streamlining communication and removing the conflicts that evolved from a complex management matrix developed over 30 years.

According to Peter Hadfield, Shell's human resources director, that could be frustrating. Sir Michael remembers his own experience running Unilever in Thailand and receiving dozens of visits from regional directors, each with their own ideas and pet projects. "I would

have tried to cut out bureaucracy. There are some things that must be decided locally, selling gasoline, for example. There are some things, such as refining, which are regional, and there are some things you decide globally, the Shell brand, for example. As a result, Shell has cut almost a third of its head



BUSINESS LETTERS

Riches were always the attraction in such a risky business

From Mr John Perry

Sir, Names at Lloyd's are faced with the decision to accept or refuse the Equitas scheme. The two letters you published from Mr R. F. May and Mr J. D. Burrows reflect some of the attitudes surrounding Lloyd's.

As a young qualified solicitor with a firm representing Lloyd's, it was one of my tasks to sit in on the interviews with prospective names at Lloyd's. In 1960 it was the standard practice to advise them that at law they would become liable to their last penny. That having been said, it was added that should a syndicate run into difficulties, it was to be expected that Lloyd's would launch a lifeboat service to come to the rescue.

I well remember the case of one individual who refused to accept financial help because he said that he had entered into the insurance market in the knowledge that he would be personally liable to his last penny. Perhaps a monument should be erected to his honourable example.

I noted the jibe against lawyers "who may not be bent

but are certainly bent on getting richer". "Getting richer" was the hope which enticed many names into the insurance market. It raised the prospect of a second income without any further work involved. At one time, when there was a distinction between earned and unearned income, the money was described as earned income: a misnomer. It would appear that the large exposure to the US asbestos risks has been responsible for the mind-boggling losses.

I fear Mr Burrows is being too narrow in his focus on the short passage from the decision in the Keene Corporation case. Lloyd's, it was said, would take on any risk. Of course, had Keene been aware of the existence of the harmful propensities of asbestos without disclosing the same then the policies could have been rendered void on the grounds of non-disclosure of material facts.

Insurance is a risky business. My efforts for Lloyd's were rewarded by an invitation to dine at the Captain's table. When the senior partner

heard of my acceptance, I was sacked. I never did enjoy that meal. Who knows, had I become a wealthy City lawyer, I too may have become a name at Lloyd's. Yours faithfully,

JOHN PERRY,
John Perry & Co (Solicitors),
25 The Green,
Richmond, Surrey.

This cannot be justice

From Mr Harry Swaddle

Sir, A ballot will be taken in the next few months to accept or reject the Lloyd's 1996 settlement. Only 12,000 of the 34,000 names remain, after resignation for personal reasons by some, plus the "can't pay" and "won't pay". As we will all have a vote, those who have left will no doubt vote to accept and the minority will be left to foot the bill.

In some cases the "won't pay" names will be voting to make others pay their losses. This cannot be justice.

Yours faithfully,
HARRY SWADDLE,
5 Beverley Gardens,
Colchester,
Essex.

Disasters not Lloyd's fault

From G. B. Potts

Sir, So many of the letters you publish, mostly from embittered names, seem to ignore the fact that, quite apart from asbestos and pollution, there were, in the three years 1988, 1989 and 1990, no less than 11 major disasters. The claims arising from these were bound to cause underwriting losses which were not the fault of Lloyd's, nor were they due to malpractice or incompetence.

The fact that these inevitable losses fell heavily on certain syndicates may well have been due to bad judgement and, in some cases, incompetence, but for names to act now as though all the blame lies with Lloyd's is to ignore the facts.

I agree that the offer will have to be improved to gain acceptance but it is, in my view, the only realistic solution to the problem.

Yours faithfully,
G. B. POTTS,
Cliff House,
Nethergate Street,
Clare, Suffolk.

City looks to new GEC chief for change

Ross Tieman on the legacy that awaits Lord Weinstock's successor

Three decades after its creation, the General Electric Company, Britain's biggest manufacturer, is at a crossroads. The breakdown of national markets has opened the door to global consolidation among rivals in the manufacture of power stations, railway equipment, and even washing machines. Low-margin competition, from giant conglomerates in newly industrialised countries, such as Korea, is stepping up the pressure for

To the outsider, the new committee structures at Unilever and Shell may look like musical chairs but examined more closely, they are an attempt to address an intractable problem for multinationals: how to remain close to different customers in far-flung locations while at the same time pushing their global brands. At the same time, their shareholders are tapping them on the shoulders demanding higher profits and dividends. Sir Michael put the new emphasis succinctly: "For example, the president of a mature business in America might feel that his way forward is to expand into areas that are less mature. But we will say — thank you, but your task is to generate value out of your existing business because we think it is probably better to invest this \$100 million of shareholders funds in China. That is a decision he cannot participate in."

The strategic focus on the Far East is slowly changing the ethnic make-up of the multinationals. Unilever is on its third local chairman in Indonesia, and Hindustan Lever, the Indian subsidiary, has more of its own staff working outside the country than foreign Unilever expatriates working within India. However, in both Shell and Unilever, at the heart of the corporate centre the faces are predominantly white, either English or Dutch.

That may change slowly but the search for growing markets raises a question as to how long the strategic decision-making of companies like Shell and Unilever will remain in slow-growth Europe. There is political resistance to creating regional corporate centres: an operating company in Thailand may find it easier to take instruction from London than Singapore. Technology transfer also remains a large part of the function of corporate centres, with local companies buying know-how from London, Rotterdam or The Hague.

However, companies like Shell and Unilever are not at the frontiers of high technology. Their skill is in delivering the same product of the same quality again and again around the world. The shareholders remain predominantly European or American. But if investors stay with them, it is because of the prospect of getting a stake in the high-growth emerging markets, not for the meagre profits earned from selling petrol in Surrey or detergent in Ohio.

The renewal of GEC is already part-complete. In a visionary series of deals, beautifully accomplished, Weinstock joint-ventured several of GEC's businesses with strong partners at the end of the 1980s. His task is to reshape GEC for a new century.

A flotation of GEC Alsthom is a possibility, together with new partnerships for that business, and for GEC.

Disposals are probable.

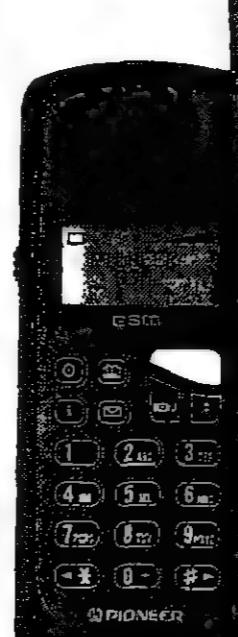
The favourites for disposal are businesses that lack critical mass and are seen as peripheral, such as GDA, in white goods. Videojet, in printing, and Express, the logistics company, together with some of the colonial legacy operations.

The City expects change. Changing markets demand it. George Simpson must deliver it.

Now free calls and one second billing.

PIONEER GSM MODEL PCC-D500

- ◆ 100 name/number memory
- ◆ 60 mins talk-time
- ◆ 11 hrs standby-time
- ◆ Complete with super-slim NiCad battery and fast travel charger
- ◆ Weight approx 195g



FREE CALLS 50 MINUTES PER MONTH IN MARCH, APRIL & MAY

- ONE SECOND BILLING - you only pay for the airtime you use
- FREE ACCESSORIES - in-car adaptor/charger and leather case, together worth over £50
- BEST COVERAGE - with digital call clarity and security

LIMITED OFFER £9.99 INC. VAT

Cellphones direct

ORDER NOW WITH YOUR CREDIT CARD DETAILS FOR FREE DELIVERY IN 4 WORKING DAYS
FREEPHONE 0800 000 888

CREDIT CARD ORDERING HOTLINE WEEKDAYS 9AM TO 7PM WEEKENDS 9AM TO 5PM

PLEASE HAVE YOUR CREDIT CARD AND THIS ADVERTISEMENT READY WHEN YOU CALL AND QUOTE REF: 3407. EXCEPT WHERE WE ARE UNABLE TO ACCEPT SWITCH CARDS.
This subject to status and a standard airtime contract for each phone with Cellphones Direct Ltd, 185 Lower Richmond Road, Richmond, Surrey TW9 4LN. Full written terms and terms and conditions of this offer are available on request. © Copyright Registered No 2995222.

Invesco planning to buy

INVESCO, the international fund management group, is to use its £70 million cash pile to make acquisitions to boost funds under management and expand its businesses in northern Europe, the US and the Asian markets (Robert Miller writes).

Norman Riddell, chief executive of Invesco, which yesterday unveiled a 28 per cent increase in annual profits to top £50 million up to December 31, said that the group started off the New Year in an acquisitive style by purchasing Astra Investment Management in Hong Kong for £6 million spread over three years. Global funds under management rose to £53.8 billion against £41.7 billion last time.

Mr Riddell said: "We are always willing to consider a purchase, but it must be the right business at the right price." Earnings per share rose by 17 per cent to 13.7p, while the final dividend of 4p contributed to a total payout for the year of 5.75p, compared with 4.75p in 1994.

By MARIANNE CURPHEY

NATIONAL EXPRESS, the transport company which now operates coaches, buses and airports, says it is considering "dozens of opportunities" to invest in, or acquire, new companies in the UK, Europe and Far East. Adam Mills, deputy chief executive, said National Express was also interested in setting up joint ventures abroad.

He expects to hear "within three weeks" whether NE has been successful in its bid to operate privatised rail services on either the InterCity East Coast Mainline, Midland Mainline, Network South Central or Gatwick Express routes.

He said: "We are hopeful that we will get something." Mr Mills was less optimistic about NE's bid for Birmingham Airport. He said: "We are probably unlikely to be allowed to take a stake, but are still interested in UK airports." National Express already owns both East Midlands and Bournemouth airports.

Yesterday NE reported a



Adam Mills, Phil White, West Midlands Travel chief executive, Ray McEnhill, and Colin Child, NE finance director

near-threefold increase in pre-tax profits in 1995 to £41.5 million from £15.2 million. Operating profit rose to £44 million from £16.3 million, with a £24.7 million contribu-

tion from West Midlands Travel (WMT), acquired in April 1995.

Cost-cutting measures to reduce debt at WMT had resulted in the loss of 120 jobs and

more were likely, Mr Mills said. Deregulation of buses meant the market was now "very tough", and NE faced competitive pressures in all its operating areas.

The company has spent several thousand pounds fitting seat belts to all new coaches and by 1997 all 550 will have belts.

National Express has a 17

per cent stake in London & Continental, the consortium which won the contract to build and operate the £3 billion Channel Tunnel rail link.

Meanwhile, operating profit on the coach division last year was flat, at £9.69 million (£9.86 million), although the 1994 figures had been boosted by increased passengers during the rail strike.

Passenger numbers at East Midlands Airport rose 17 per cent to 1.9 million (1.6 million).

Earnings per share were up 11 per cent to 27.9p (25.2p). Gearing at the year end was 36 per cent (6 per cent), and the increase reflects the debt within West Midlands Travel when it was acquired.

NE is now looking for a successor to outgoing chief executive Ray McEnhill, who wants to step down because of ill health. Mr Mills said the company was "still searching and expects to make an announcement next month".

The total dividend has been increased by 15 per cent to 10p net, compared with 8.7p last year. The shares rose 4p to 48p.

Dividend at F&C is raised again

By ROBERT MILLER

FOREIGN & Colonial, Britain's oldest investment trust, has rewarded its shareholders with a 25th consecutive annual dividend increase. F&C, which has assets of £1.8 billion and has been managed by Michael Hart since 1969, lifted the final payout by a higher than forecast 10 per cent to 2.1p.

F&C's performance was further boosted by the trust's managers borrowing £134 million to gain additional exposure to the yen and the US and UK bond markets. The F&C investment view was that the yen would gain in strength and for UK and US bond prices to rise. Initially, the bet back-fired, but finally came good in 1995, enabling Mr Hart to pay back the loan and bank a profit further enhanced by currency gains and interest rate differentials.

F&C has increased the number of predominantly private shareholders to 105,000 from 95,000 previously and has attracted 2,400 investors to its low-cost personal pension plan. Among the top ten investments in its portfolio is a £52 million stake in Robert Fleming, the private merchant bank.

Geest pegs payout despite red ink

By SARAH BAGNALL

SHARPLY lower banana prices and a string of one-off costs pushed Geest, the UK food company, into the red in the year to December 30.

The group, which sold its banana business at the start of the year for £147.1 million, yesterday revealed a slump in pre-tax profits of £12.8 million to a loss of £600,000. Sales fell from £675.7 million to £659.4 million.

Michael Dowdall, chairman, said: "The sale of the banana business marks the beginning of a new stage in the development of Geest."

Today, Geest is clearly focused on fresh convenience foods - an area of rapid growth and increasing consumer penetration." The sale provides Geest with the financial muscle to expand in this

fast-growing market. The decline in fortunes reflects £10.6 million of net exceptional costs and a decline in underlying profits from £12.3 million to £10 million.

The banana business, which will not feature in future results, saw operating profits plunge 23 per cent to £8.8 million because of the imposition of an export tax by Colombia and lower banana prices.

In contrast, the group's food preparation businesses lifted operating profits 33 per cent to £10 million, while the fresh convenience foods businesses made an operating profit of £9.4 million.

The final dividend, due July 1, of 4.4p maintains the total for the year at 8.1p. The shares rose 4p to 224p.

Tenneco set for spin-offs

TENNECO, the US conglomerate, is taking its break-up plan one stage further with two large spin-offs this year (Richard Thomson writes). The first is its Newport News Shipbuilding operation, which will be offered to shareholders late in 1996. It also expects to put the finishing touches to a plan to separate its large Tenneco energy

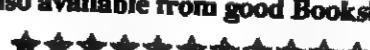
business from its industrial operations by the middle of this year.

The Newport News operation in Vermont supplied \$1.7 billion last year, or 15 per cent of Tenneco's revenues. The energy business, which includes a natural gas pipeline, contributed \$1.9 billion, or about 20 per cent of revenues. The pipeline supplies about one sixth of US natural gas.

THE TIMES

Atlases of the World

Now! No handling charges and FREE postage to all our UK customers
Offer applies United Kingdom only
Also available from good Bookshops



The Times Atlas of the World (Revised annually)

9th Comprehensive (De Luxe) Edition (18.25" x 12.5" x 2") £85

"The finest reference atlas ever produced"

Lord Shackleton, former President, The Royal Geographical Society

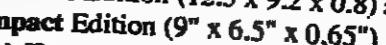
7th Concise Edition (15" x 11" x 1.5") £45

3rd Family Edition (12.5 x 9.2 x 1.1) £17.99

Reference Edition (12.5 x 9.2 x 0.8) £12.99

Compact Edition (9" x 6.5" x 0.65") £8.99

Mini (Pocket) Edn (6.2 x 4.2 x 0.65) £5.99



The Times Atlas of World History £40

Over 1 million copies sold worldwide

"A fascinating and technically brilliant achievement"

The New York Review of Books

Concise Edition (Paperback) £14.99

"This book has few equals"

History Today

Compact Edition £9.99

The Times Atlas of Archaeology £35

"Never has the past been so magnificently charted"

Magnus Magnusson

The Times Atlas European History £25

The Times London History Atlas £22.99

"Endlessly fascinating"

New Statesman and Society

The Times Illust. World History £25

The Times Illust. History of Europe £25

Please send cheques or postal orders (no credit cards) payable to Akom Ltd, 51 Manor Lane, London SE13 5QW

Enquiries: 0181 852 4575 (24 hours)

Delivery up to 8 days (UK)

SAVING UP TO £26 HAS NEVER BEEN SUCH FUN.



Starting this Saturday, The Times gives you the chance to take up to 2 kids absolutely free to any Tussauds Group attraction and save up to £26. Choose from attractions including Alton Towers, Chessington World of Adventures, Madame Tussaud's, Rock Circus, The London Planetarium and Warwick Castle. Start collecting tokens in The Times this Saturday.

Hepworth pays the same after flat profits

By MARTIN BARROW

HEPWORTH, the building products, heating and minerals group, is maintaining its 1995 dividend after returning annual pre-tax profits little changed at £74.5 million, against £75.5 million previously.

The company warned shareholders that profits for the first half of the current year will be affected by difficult trading conditions in construction markets across Europe, compounded by adverse weather.

Industrial, heating and home products activities continued to perform at reasonable levels in highly competitive markets, Hepworth said. John Carter, chief executive, said it was hoped that lower interest rates in western Europe would provide the backdrop for a progressive rise in activity later in the year.

After a promising start, 1995 had proved to be a difficult year in its key construction, heating and home products markets in Britain and on the Continent, the company said. However, an improved result from its refractory and minerals activities led to an overall performance in line with 1994.

Operating profits slipped to £73.6 million, from £76.7 million, a decline of 4 per cent, in

spite of a 10 per cent rise in turnover, to £65.9 million, from £65.9 million.

Profits in the building products division fell to £16.1 million, from £19.8 million, while the contribution from home products declined to £9 million, from £12.8 million.

Sauvage Duval, the boilers subsidiary, held profits almost unchanged at £29 million, against £29.4 million. Buoyant markets lifted the refractories division, whose profits rose to £7.4 million, from £4.3 million, and the minerals and chemicals division, which earned £11.9 million, up from £10.4 million.

There was a net cash outflow of £27.4 million, reflecting increased capital expenditure and acquisitions, which lifted gearing to 22.3 per cent, from 8.4 per cent. Interest cover remained high, at 25 times.

Hepworth is to seek shareholder approval to acquire up to 10 per cent of its ordinary shares, although the company emphasised that it had no intention of buying the shares at the current time. The shares fell 3p to 290p, yesterday.

The final dividend is unchanged at 9.35p a share, due on July 12, which maintains the total at 14.85p. Earnings per share were 20.8p, down from 21.6p.

Rights issue at Abbott Mead Vickers

By ALASDAIR MURRAY

A 1-FOR-8 rights issues was launched yesterday at Abbott Mead Vickers, the advertising group, to cover the cost of recent acquisitions.

The announcement was made after the company unveiled a 27 per cent rise in full-year profits to £10.4 million. David Abbott, chairman, was also bullish about prospects for this year, saying the company had made a strong start.

Abbott Mead has won £50 million new business to date this year, including ICI Dulux and Prudential.

The company also recently bought Fishburn Hedges Boys Williams, the PR company.

Turnover increased by 18 per cent to £287 million. The total dividend was increased by 22 per cent to 9p, with a final dividend of 6.25p payable on June 7.

Last year, Abbott Mead gained £115 million in new business, with new clients including Timberland, Pizza Hut and Texas, the DIY chain. The company also enjoyed a large rise in cross-referrals between its marketing and advertising businesses, ending the year with 36 clients using two or more group companies. Group margins increased from 15.6 per cent to 16 per cent, with margins in the advertising division increasing from 14.1 to 14.6 per cent.

The company said that BBDO Worldwide, one of its main shareholders, would not be subscribing to the rights issue but had recently increased its holding in Abbott Mead to 29.6 per cent. BBDO said it would maintain a long-term commitment to its holding in Abbott Mead.

Maunders encouraged by housing market

JOHN MAUNDERS Group, the housebuilder operating in northwest and southern England, said that although the housing market remains fragile, sales this year are encouraging, with reservations on target and demand aided by cuts in interest rates and tax.

In the half to December 31, group pre-tax profits fell to £2.5 million, from £3.6 million. The interim dividend remains 24.5p, due on April 26.

Flare buys

FLARE Group, the ceramics company, formerly Hewitt Group, is paying £6 million for Bricsco, a kiln maker, and £2.6 million for CMS Colours, supplier of transfers for pottery. Flare made a 1995 pre-tax profit of £1.3 million (1994 loss of £6.3 million). Earnings were 12.7p a share (11.9p loss). There is again no dividend.

Blow to Quality

Pre-tax profits of Quality Software Products fell to £502,697 last year, from £2.5 million, in spite of a 30 per cent rise in turnover, to £21.4 million. A 1.5p final dividend, from 4.5p, makes 3p, down from 4.5p.

Gleeson ahead

M.J. GLEESON Group, the housebuilding and property company, is lifting its interim dividend to 3.75p, from 3.55p, after a rise in pre-tax profits to £3.48 million (£3.24 million) in the half year to December 31.

Try slips

TRY Group, the contractor and housebuilder, made a 1995 pre-tax loss of £4.4 million (1994 profits of £620,000). There is no dividend (1p).



James Frost predicted more volume in fewer hands, leading to higher prices at the pumps. He said Frost Group would aim to maximise its margins

Frost edges ahead in tough market

PROFITS at Frost Group, the independent petrol station chain operator, were little changed in 1995, reflecting the difficult trading conditions in a fiercely competitive market (Martin Barrow writes).

Pre-tax profits rose to £11.1 million in 1995 from £10.9 million in 1994, in spite of a sharp rise in turnover to £45.5 million from £29.4 million.

There was a five-month contribution from Burmah Castrol's petrol and wholesale business acquired in July for £23 million. Frost also operates the SAVe chain.

There is a final dividend of 3.8p a share, which lifts the total to 7p from 5.6p. Headline earnings fell to 10.2p a share from 11p, although they rose to 13.9p after adjustment for last year's

rights issue to fund the Burmah purchase.

James Frost, chairman, said the results represented "a highly satisfactory outcome for a difficult year in the UK petroleum market".

Mr Frost gave warning that 1996 was going to be tough. Restructuring within the industry would leave BP, Esso and Shell with up to 55 per cent of

the retail market, while the private dealer market would fall in volume terms. He said: "The end result will be more volume concentrated in fewer hands and that means higher pump prices."

The company said it sought to maximise its total gross margin, even if this meant maintaining margin per litre and sacrificing volume.

Laing down but sees pick-up

By ALASDAIR MURRAY

JOHN LAING, the construction company, yesterday reported a 15 per cent fall in full-year profits to £20.8 million but was confident the UK construction market was beginning to pick up.

Martin Laing, the chairman, said: "The UK housing market has begun to recover, particularly in the South East, and in recent weeks we have seen a growth in sales. However, it is too early to assess the strength of the recovery."

Mr Laing believes a full recovery and an improvement in the risk/reward ratio of the construction industry in the medium term would enable the group to strengthen its performance.

Turnover increased 3 per cent to £1.2 billion. The construction division made a £2.3 million loss (£2 million profit), after taking an £11.1 million restructuring charge. But the housing division showed a 25 per cent profit improvement at £11.9 million. UK housing sales fell from 2,114 to 1,675 with a slight improvement in the US at 721 units. Total dividend was 9p unchanged, with a final 6p, payable on July 5.

It's all about size:
only bigger
companies win
National Training
Awards

It's all about how
good you are:
prove training
helped your
company and join
the winners

National Training Awards Competition for 1995

(These winners demonstrated that investment in training increased turnover profitability or productivity)

- Chartwell Land PLC • Avista • Northcliffe Newspapers Group Limited • Southwark Revenue Services
- London Electricity Plc • Zeneca Grangemouth Works • Scania (Great Britain) Limited
- Port Talbot Borough Council • Harry Ramsden Plc • Sandra Seed • Shepherd Construction • Centrestreet London Buses Limited • North Manchester Healthcare NHS Trust • Pinfold House Residential Home • Charlie's • Lynns Tomlinson • Army School of Mechanical Transport Combat Support Services Signals Division • Mail Matters Direct Ltd • Southend Health Care NHS Trust • Foxdenton School and Integrated Nursery • Gary Donaldson • Kalon Group Plc • Pontefract Hospitals NHS Trust • Kirklees Metropolitan Council Education Service • BBC World Service Training • Eurotunnel • Playtex UK Limited • Keystone UK Limited • Darryl Senior • Infotec UK Ltd • Graham & Hestip Limited
- Stephen Conroy • Coca Cola Bottlers (Ulster) Limited • TRW Automotive Systems Ltd • Ford Motor Company Limited, Halewood Body & Assembly Operations • Audio Processing Technology Limited
- Betty's Home Bakery • Seabait Limited • Fosco IFSI Limited • Herland & Wolff Shipbuilding & Heavy Industries Ltd • Greenalls Inn Partnership • Swan Hotel at Newby Bridge • Strathclyde Police • The Prince's Trust Volunteers and Savacentre, The桑德比Hypermarket • European Gas Turbines and Engineering Training Authority • Good Wine & Food Limited and Centre for Customer Awareness
- Initiative Training & Enterprises Limited and Command Wessex • Aysha Venon • Perkins Engines Peterborough Limited • TNT Express Worldwide • Nottinghamshire County Council • The Guardian & The Observer • London Electricity Plc Engineering Training • Independent Insurance Company Limited • BBC News Resources • James Davy • R J Banks and Company Health and Safety Department
- Gregg's The Baker Plc (Manchester) • Ashworth Hospital, Centre for Aggression Management • British Aerospace Defence Limited, Military Aircraft Division • HM Customs and Excise, North West Collection • The Scottish Police College and The Scottish Police Service • Bank of Scotland • Deplan Limited • Castrol (UK) Limited • Judith Billington • British Steel Tinsplate • British Steel Strip Products Integrated Works, Linewern • KTP Applied Bar Code Technology • Perfora Limited • Caroline Dunn • Integrated Graduate Development Scheme (The Queen's University of Belfast and The University of Ulster) • Armark PLC • Linkage Specialist Residential Colleges • Latymer Training • Shadow Trust Career Development • Bruce Pittington • Access Computer Centre, Swindon College • Giggill Junior School • West Fifes Enterprise Limited • Robert Atkinson • The Insolvency Service and Psychological Services • Royal Mail North Wales, North West and Manchester Open Learning • Minds Eye and G & J Partnership • Hull City Services, Building Services Division and Hull College, Faculty of Building and Civil Engineering • Anne Seddon • School of the Built Environment, Coventry University and Goldsmiths • Strathclyde Region Education Department • Strathclyde Police /Strathclyde Region Reporter's Department and the Children's Panel/Strathclyde Region Social Work Department • Les Horne • Strathclyde Regional Council Social Work Department and James Watt College of Further and Higher Education • Dunchurch, The GEC Management College • Mansouda Wahid • Croydon Continuing Education and Training Service and London Borough of Croydon, Social Services Department • The Banks Group of Companies

Will you be a winner in 1996?

National Training Awards Competition 1996	
Call 0345 66 55 00 to receive your 1996 National Training Award entry pack or send this coupon to: PO Box 200, Timothy's Bridge Road, Stratford Upon Avon, CV27 9NY. Who knows, you could be a shining example for next year's advertisement.	
<input type="checkbox"/> Are you... Under 30 Over 30	<input type="checkbox"/> Training Provider <input type="checkbox"/> Company <input type="checkbox"/> Over 50
FREE YOUR POTENTIAL D/E/E	

THYSSEN
AKTIENGESELLSCHAFT

Publication pursuant to Arts. 25 (2) and 41 (3)
of the German Securities Trade Act ("WpHG")

In accordance with Art. 21 (1) WpHG, Thyssen Beteiligungsverwaltung GmbH, Düsseldorf, Germany, informed us that after selling part of its stake in our company's voting capital, its shareholding has decreased to 10.001 percent, which is below the threshold of 25 percent.

Pursuant to Arts. 21 (1) and 22 (1) no. 2 WpHG, Thyssen Vermögensverwaltung GmbH, Düsseldorf, Germany, informed us that it now longer holds the majority of the voting rights in Thyssen Beteiligungsverwaltung GmbH, Düsseldorf, Germany.

Under the terms of Art. 41 (2) WpHG, the Fritz Thyssen Foundation, Cologne, Germany, informed us that it has held 8.58 percent of our company's voting stock as of January 1, 1995.

Duisburg, Germany, March 22, 1996

The Executive Board

Modest gains at the close

TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place five business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

	High	Low	Company	Price	Yield	PE
ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES						
566 470 Miller Breweries	200	195	Burns Philp	111	—	12
567 Burn Smart	111	—	Campari	111	—	12
568 British Beer	412	395	Heublein	111	—	12
569 Heublein	111	—	Hopkins	111	—	12
570 Heublein UK	162	150	Levi Strauss	111	—	12
571 Heublein USA	162	150	Marconi	111	—	12
572 Heublein USA	162	150	Matsushita	111	—	12
573 Heublein USA	162	150	McDonald's	111	—	12
574 Heublein USA	162	150	Meritor	111	—	12
575 Heublein USA	162	150	Metaphor	111	—	12
576 Heublein USA	162	150	Metaphor	111	—	12
577 Heublein USA	162	150	Metaphor	111	—	12
578 Heublein USA	162	150	Metaphor	111	—	12
579 Heublein USA	162	150	Metaphor	111	—	12
580 Heublein USA	162	150	Metaphor	111	—	12
581 Heublein USA	162	150	Metaphor	111	—	12
582 Heublein USA	162	150	Metaphor	111	—	12
583 Heublein USA	162	150	Metaphor	111	—	12
584 Heublein USA	162	150	Metaphor	111	—	12
585 Heublein USA	162	150	Metaphor	111	—	12
586 Heublein USA	162	150	Metaphor	111	—	12
587 Heublein USA	162	150	Metaphor	111	—	12
588 Heublein USA	162	150	Metaphor	111	—	12
589 Heublein USA	162	150	Metaphor	111	—	12
590 Heublein USA	162	150	Metaphor	111	—	12
591 Heublein USA	162	150	Metaphor	111	—	12
592 Heublein USA	162	150	Metaphor	111	—	12
593 Heublein USA	162	150	Metaphor	111	—	12
594 Heublein USA	162	150	Metaphor	111	—	12
595 Heublein USA	162	150	Metaphor	111	—	12
596 Heublein USA	162	150	Metaphor	111	—	12
597 Heublein USA	162	150	Metaphor	111	—	12
598 Heublein USA	162	150	Metaphor	111	—	12
599 Heublein USA	162	150	Metaphor	111	—	12
600 Heublein USA	162	150	Metaphor	111	—	12
601 Heublein USA	162	150	Metaphor	111	—	12
602 Heublein USA	162	150	Metaphor	111	—	12
603 Heublein USA	162	150	Metaphor	111	—	12
604 Heublein USA	162	150	Metaphor	111	—	12
605 Heublein USA	162	150	Metaphor	111	—	12
606 Heublein USA	162	150	Metaphor	111	—	12
607 Heublein USA	162	150	Metaphor	111	—	12
608 Heublein USA	162	150	Metaphor	111	—	12
609 Heublein USA	162	150	Metaphor	111	—	12
610 Heublein USA	162	150	Metaphor	111	—	12
611 Heublein USA	162	150	Metaphor	111	—	12
612 Heublein USA	162	150	Metaphor	111	—	12
613 Heublein USA	162	150	Metaphor	111	—	12
614 Heublein USA	162	150	Metaphor	111	—	12
615 Heublein USA	162	150	Metaphor	111	—	12
616 Heublein USA	162	150	Metaphor	111	—	12
617 Heublein USA	162	150	Metaphor	111	—	12
618 Heublein USA	162	150	Metaphor	111	—	12
619 Heublein USA	162	150	Metaphor	111	—	12
620 Heublein USA	162	150	Metaphor	111	—	12
621 Heublein USA	162	150	Metaphor	111	—	12
622 Heublein USA	162	150	Metaphor	111	—	12
623 Heublein USA	162	150	Metaphor	111	—	12
624 Heublein USA	162	150	Metaphor	111	—	12
625 Heublein USA	162	150	Metaphor	111	—	12
626 Heublein USA	162	150	Metaphor	111	—	12
627 Heublein USA	162	150	Metaphor	111	—	12
628 Heublein USA	162	150	Metaphor	111	—	12
629 Heublein USA	162	150	Metaphor	111	—	12
630 Heublein USA	162	150	Metaphor	111	—	12
631 Heublein USA	162	150	Metaphor	111	—	12
632 Heublein USA	162	150	Metaphor	111	—	12
633 Heublein USA	162	150	Metaphor	111	—	12
634 Heublein USA	162	150	Metaphor	111	—	12
635 Heublein USA	162	150	Metaphor	111	—	12
636 Heublein USA	162	150	Metaphor	111	—	12
637 Heublein USA	162	150	Metaphor	111	—	12
638 Heublein USA	162	150	Metaphor	111	—	12
639 Heublein USA	162	150	Metaphor	111	—	12
640 Heublein USA	162	150	Metaphor	111	—	12
641 Heublein USA	162	150	Metaphor	111	—	12
642 Heublein USA	162	150	Metaphor	111	—	12
643 Heublein USA	162	150	Metaphor	111	—	12
644 Heublein USA	162	150	Metaphor	111	—	12
645 Heublein USA	162	150	Metaphor	111	—	12
646 Heublein USA	162	150	Metaphor	111	—	12
647 Heublein USA	162	150	Metaphor	111	—	12
648 Heublein USA	162	150	Metaphor	111	—	12
649 Heublein USA	162	150	Metaphor	111	—	12
650 Heublein USA	162	150	Metaphor	111	—	12
651 Heublein USA	162	150	Metaphor	111	—	12
652 Heublein USA	162	150	Metaphor	111	—	12
653 Heublein USA	162	150	Metaphor	111	—	12
654 Heublein USA	162	150	Metaphor	111	—	12
655 Heublein USA	162	150	Metaphor	111	—	12
656 Heublein USA	162	150	Metaphor	111	—	12
657 Heublein USA	162	150	Metaphor	111	—	12
658 Heublein USA	162	150	Metaphor	111	—	12
659 Heublein USA	162	150	Metaphor	111	—	12
660 Heublein USA	162	150	Metaphor	111	—	12
661 Heublein USA	162	150	Metaphor	111	—	12
662 Heublein USA	162	150	Metaphor	111	—	12
663 Heublein USA	162	150	Metaphor	111	—	12
664 Heublein USA	162	150	Metaphor	111	—	12
665 Heublein USA	162	150	Metaphor	111	—	12
666 Heublein USA	162	150	Metaphor	111	—	12
667 Heublein USA	162	150	Metaphor	111	—	12
668 Heublein USA	162	150	Metaphor	111	—	12
669 Heublein USA	162	150	Metaphor	111	—	12
670 Heublein USA	162	150	Metaphor	111	—	12
671 Heublein USA	162	150	Metaphor	111	—	12
672 Heublein USA	162	150	Metaphor	111	—	12
673 Heublein USA	162	150	Metaphor	111	—	12
674 Heublein USA	162	150	Metaphor	111	—	12
675 Heublein USA	162	150	Metaphor	111	—	12
676 Heublein USA	162	150	Metaphor	111	—	12
677 Heublein USA	162	150	Metaphor	111	—	12
678 Heublein USA	162	150	Metaphor	111	—	12
679 Heublein USA	162	150	Metaphor	111	—	12
680 Heublein USA	162	150	Metaphor	111	—	12
681 Heublein USA	162	150	Metaphor	111	—	12
682 Heublein USA	162	150	Metaphor	111	—	12
683 Heublein USA	162	150	Metaphor	111	—	12

Law Report March 22 1996 House of Lords

Legal professional privilege lost in investigative child care proceedings.

In re L (a Minor) (Police investigation: Privilege)

Before Lord Jauncey of Tullichie, Lord Mustill, Lord Lloyd of Berwick, Lord Nicholls of Birkenhead and Lord Steyn [Speeches March 21]

Since proceedings under the Part IV of the Children Act 1989 were investigative and non-adversarial in nature and placed the welfare of the child as the primary consideration, an expert's report obtained by a party to care proceedings was not protected by legal professional privilege.

The House of Lords so held by a majority, Lord Mustill and Lord Nicholls dissenting, in dismissing an appeal by the mother of L, a minor, from the Court of Appeal [Sir Thomas Bingham, Master of the Rolls, Lord Justice Swinton Thomas and Lord Justice Morris] (*The Times* April 25, 1995) which had upheld the order of Mrs Justice Bracewell that a medical report concerning L, commissioned by the mother in the course of interim care proceedings in respect of L and his brother, be disclosed to the Greater Manchester Police Authority.

Miss Lindsey Kushner, QC and Miss Lesley A. Newton for the mother; Mr David M. Harris, QC and Mr Anthony Hayden for the council; Mr David M. Harris, QC and Miss Yvonne Farnell for the police authority; Mr Ernest Ryder for the guardian ad litem.

LORD JAUNCEY said that in 1993 L, a child of two drug addicts, became seriously ill after ingesting a quantity of methadone. The mother's explanation was that the child's taking of the substance was accidental. Shortly thereafter the council obtained interim care or-

ders in respect of L and her brother.

On the application of both parents, a district judge made the following order: "The parents shall have leave to disclose to a medical expert the court papers for the purpose of a report regarding the frequency of the consumption of methadone by L. The identity of such expert is to be disclosed to all parties. The report is to be filed . . ."

The effect of the order was that the report when filed would be available for inspection and copying by any party to the proceedings and the guardian ad litem.

The mother's solicitors duly instructed a consultant chemical pathologist. His report concluded that there was no evidence for habituation to methadone but cast serious doubts on the mother's account of accidental ingestion.

Thereafter the police, while attending a case conference, came to hear of the report and made application to be provided with a copy for the purpose of investigating criminal offences. The judge held that she had jurisdiction to order disclosure to non-parties and that her discretion should be exercised in favour of disclosure.

The mother appealed and while accepting that in general the court had jurisdiction to order disclosure to non-parties she maintained that it had no jurisdiction to order disclosure of the report to the police authority because (i) it was protected by legal professional privilege, and (ii) its disclosure would infringe her privilege against self-incrimination.

She further argued that the judge had exercised her discretion wrongly. Legal professional privilege The order of the district judge

was in the form approved in *Oxfordshire County Council v M* [1994] Fam 151.

Sir Stephen Brown, President, there said [at p1628]: "Children's cases are to be regarded as being in a special category. In these circumstances, the court has power to override legal professional privilege in relation to experts' reports when it gives leave to parties to obtain them."

In *R v Derby Magistrates' Court, Ex parte B* [1995] 3 WLR 681, 697 Lord Taylor of Gosforth, Lord Chief Justice, had stated that "no exception should be allowed to the absolute nature of legal professional privilege once established".

However, it was clear from his reasoning and that of the other members of the committee that the reference to legal professional privilege had been in the context of the relationship between solicitor and client.

Miss Kushner had maintained that the absolute nature of the privilege attaching to the solicitor-client relationship extended equally to all other forms of legal professional privilege. His Lordship rejected that contention.

There was, as Mr. Harris pointed out, a clear distinction between the privilege attaching to communications between solicitor and client and that attaching to reports by third parties prepared on the instructions of a client for the purposes of litigation.

In the former case the privilege attached to all communications whether related to litigation or not, but in the latter case it attached only to documents or other written communication prepared with a view to litigation.

Further, whereas a solicitor

could not without his client's consent be compelled to express an opinion on the factual or legal merits of the case, a third party who had provided a report to a client could be subpoenaed to give evidence by the other side and could not decline to answer questions as to their factual findings and opinion thereon.

Since care proceedings under Part IV of the 1989 Children were non-adversarial in their nature, whereas litigation privilege was essentially a creature of adversarial proceedings, it followed that the matter was at large for the House to determine what if any role it had to play in care proceedings.

His Lordship concluded that care proceedings, which were primarily non-adversarial and investigative, were so far removed from normal actions that litigation privilege had no place in relation to reports obtained by a party thereto which could not have been prepared without the leave of the court to disclose documents already ready to or examine the child.

If litigation privilege were to apply to the report in the present case it could have the effect of subordinating the welfare of the child to the interests of the mother in preserving its confidentiality. That would appear to frustrate the primary object of the Act.

The *Oxfordshire* case had been argued on the assumption that the privilege existed but could be overridden. The better view was that litigation privilege never arose in the first place. It was excluded by necessary implication from the term "litigation" of the Act.

That did not, of course, affect privilege arising between solicitor and client.

It was only when the report became available that its possible incriminating effect became known and it was at that stage when the mother was first in a position to advance her claim to privilege by seeking a variation of that part of the order which required the report to be filed.

However, since the mother had voluntarily initiated the process, did not appeal the order when it was made and contemplated it without seeking a variation, notwithstanding that the unfavourable nature of the report had by then become apparent, she had to be taken to have waived any claim which she may have had to privilege against self-incrimination consequent upon the order of the district judge.

His Lordship emphasised that although he had assumed that the mother might have had a claim to privilege in respect of the report, he had not done so in order to decide whether in law she should have had one but for her waiver.

Any such claim would on any view have been of limited value, since the maker of the report, if subpoenaed as a witness, would have been bound to answer questions as to the opinion which he

Privilege against self-incrimination

Where a court was asked to make an order for disclosure, compliance with which was likely to involve the danger of self-incrimination by the defendant, an order producing such a result should not be made. This, however, was not such a case. When the mother applied for the order the district judge had no reason to suppose that the report which was sought might incriminate the person seeking it.

In such proceedings it would be most unsatisfactory if the court, having information that the mother might have committed a serious offence against the child whose welfare it was seeking to protect, should be disabled from disclosing such information to the appropriate investigating authority.

Lord Lloyd and Lord Steyn agreed with Lord Jauncey.

LORD NICHOLLS, dissenting, said that legal professional privilege was deeply embedded in English law. That was confirmed recently by the House in *Derby* case. The privilege against non-disclosure prevailed even where the privileged material might assist the defence of a person charged with murder.

Clear words or a compelling context were needed before Parliament could be taken to have intended that the privilege should be ousted in favour of another interest. The Children Act contained nothing to that effect.

The crucial question was not whether and in what extent the proceedings were inquisitorial rather than adversarial. The question to be addressed was what was required if the proceedings were to

have formed and the mother would have been bound to answer questions as to the opinion expressed in the report see section 9(1) of the 1989 Act.

Exercise of discretion

The judge's exercise of her discretion had not been plainly wrong. She had taken the view, which was entirely justified, that the best interests of L would be served by disclosure. It could not possibly be said that in reaching such a decision she had acted in error.

In such proceedings it would be most unsatisfactory if the court, having information that the mother might have committed a serious offence against the child whose welfare it was seeking to protect, should be disabled from disclosing such information to the appropriate investigating authority.

It had to be doubtful whether a parent who was denied the opportunity to obtain legal advice in confidence was accorded the fair hearing to which he was entitled under article 6(1), read in conjunction with article 8, of the European Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms [1953] (Cmnd 9069).

Parents and other parties should be entitled to such a fair hearing notwithstanding the special role of judges in family proceedings. If that was not to be, Parliament should say so expressly. The paramountcy principle had not to be permitted to become a loose condition.

In the course of the submissions it had been suggested that the Children Act had impliedly abrogated litigation privilege, while leaving legal advice privilege untouched. His Lordship could not accept that. The two sub-headings were integral parts of a single privilege.

Lord Lloyd agreed with Lord Nicholls.

Solicitors: Green & Co, Manchester; Mrs Susan Orell, Manchester; Mr Patrick Mulvenna, Salford; Cliffs Alderley Edge.

was as much true in family proceedings as any other.

The privilege did not thwart the objective of family proceedings, or the application of the paramountcy principle. Parties were not able to suppress the evidence of an available expert, since his views could always be made available within the existing legal framework. In the time-honoured aphorism, there was no property in a witness.

He could not be required to disclose the contents of communications between himself and the first party's legal adviser. But his evidence on the issue before the court, which was all that was material, could be compelled.

There was an argument that since the expert could be compelled to give evidence, imposing a disclosure condition was doing no more than achieving, by a convenient and expeditious route, a result the court could in any event achieve production of the expert's evidence on an issue in the proceedings. If that were the only effect of a disclosure condition, his Lordship would agree.

In practice, however, a disclosure condition would be bound to have an inhibiting effect on communications between the solicitor and the expert and would make significant inroads into the freedom and frankness of confidential communication which the privilege existed to secure. For that reason a disclosure condition went beyond the convenient ordering of evidence.

Lord Mustill agreed with Lord Nicholls.

In the course of the submissions it had been suggested that the Children Act had impliedly abrogated litigation privilege, while leaving legal advice privilege untouched. His Lordship could not accept that. The two sub-headings were integral parts of a single privilege.

Lord Lloyd and Lord Steyn

Tribunal should find real cause of dismissal

Speciality Care plc v Pachela and Another

Before Judge Clark, Mr N. D. Willis and Mr T. C. Thomas [Judgment March 8]

Where there was a complaint of dismissal by reason of trade union membership it was for the industrial tribunal to find as a fact whether or not the reason or principal reason for dismissal related to the applicant's trade union membership within the meaning of section 152(1)(e) of the Trade Union and Labour Relations (Consolidation) Act 1992, not only by reference to whether the employee had simply joined a union but also by reference to whether the introduction of union representation into the employment relationship had led the employee to dismiss the employee.

Tribunals should answer that question robustly, based on their findings as to what really caused the dismissal in the mind of the employer.

The Employment Appeal Tribunal so held when allowing an appeal from a decision of a Leeds industrial tribunal in August 1994, that the applicants, Helen Pachela and Karen Keller, had been unfairly dismissed by their employers, Speciality Care plc.

The employers had appealed on the grounds, inter alia, that the tribunal's reasoning was inadequate and that the tribunal had misdirected itself as to the meaning of trade union membership for the purposes of section 152(1)(e) in the light of a subsequent decision of the House of Lords in the

The employers had resolved to alter the shift pattern of the applicants' employment as nursing home carers after their acquisition of the business following a transfer of ownership. The applicants were advised to join their union which they did. They refused to work the new shifts and were subsequently dismissed.

The industrial tribunal had decided that although their refusal to work their reassigned duties might have been a factor behind the decision to dismiss the applicants, the principal reason was that they had joined the union and had sought to use the union as the means of

The industrial tribunal found that although their refusal to work their reassigned duties might have been a factor behind the decision to dismiss the applicants, the principal reason was that they had joined the union and had sought to use the union as the means of

The employers had resolved to alter the shift pattern of the applicants' employment as nursing home carers after their acquisition of the business following a transfer of ownership. The applicants were advised to join their union which they did. They refused to work the new shifts and were subsequently dismissed.

The industrial tribunal had decided that although their refusal to work their reassigned duties might have been a factor behind the decision to dismiss the applicants, the principal reason was that they had joined the union and had sought to use the union as the means of

The employers had resolved to alter the shift pattern of the applicants' employment as nursing home carers after their acquisition of the business following a transfer of ownership. The applicants were advised to join their union which they did. They refused to work the new shifts and were subsequently dismissed.

The industrial tribunal had decided that although their refusal to work their reassigned duties might have been a factor behind the decision to dismiss the applicants, the principal reason was that they had joined the union and had sought to use the union as the means of

The employers had resolved to alter the shift pattern of the applicants' employment as nursing home carers after their acquisition of the business following a transfer of ownership. The applicants were advised to join their union which they did. They refused to work the new shifts and were subsequently dismissed.

The industrial tribunal had decided that although their refusal to work their reassigned duties might have been a factor behind the decision to dismiss the applicants, the principal reason was that they had joined the union and had sought to use the union as the means of

The employers had resolved to alter the shift pattern of the applicants' employment as nursing home carers after their acquisition of the business following a transfer of ownership. The applicants were advised to join their union which they did. They refused to work the new shifts and were subsequently dismissed.

The industrial tribunal had decided that although their refusal to work their reassigned duties might have been a factor behind the decision to dismiss the applicants, the principal reason was that they had joined the union and had sought to use the union as the means of

The employers had resolved to alter the shift pattern of the applicants' employment as nursing home carers after their acquisition of the business following a transfer of ownership. The applicants were advised to join their union which they did. They refused to work the new shifts and were subsequently dismissed.

The industrial tribunal had decided that although their refusal to work their reassigned duties might have been a factor behind the decision to dismiss the applicants, the principal reason was that they had joined the union and had sought to use the union as the means of

The employers had resolved to alter the shift pattern of the applicants' employment as nursing home carers after their acquisition of the business following a transfer of ownership. The applicants were advised to join their union which they did. They refused to work the new shifts and were subsequently dismissed.

The industrial tribunal had decided that although their refusal to work their reassigned duties might have been a factor behind the decision to dismiss the applicants, the principal reason was that they had joined the union and had sought to use the union as the means of

The employers had resolved to alter the shift pattern of the applicants' employment as nursing home carers after their acquisition of the business following a transfer of ownership. The applicants were advised to join their union which they did. They refused to work the new shifts and were subsequently dismissed.

The industrial tribunal had decided that although their refusal to work their reassigned duties might have been a factor behind the decision to dismiss the applicants, the principal reason was that they had joined the union and had sought to use the union as the means of

The employers had resolved to alter the shift pattern of the applicants' employment as nursing home carers after their acquisition of the business following a transfer of ownership. The applicants were advised to join their union which they did. They refused to work the new shifts and were subsequently dismissed.

The industrial tribunal had decided that although their refusal to work their reassigned duties might have been a factor behind the decision to dismiss the applicants, the principal reason was that they had joined the union and had sought to use the union as the means of

The employers had resolved to alter the shift pattern of the applicants' employment as nursing home carers after their acquisition of the business following a transfer of ownership. The applicants were advised to join their union which they did. They refused to work the new shifts and were subsequently dismissed.

The industrial tribunal had decided that although their refusal to work their reassigned duties might have been a factor behind the decision to dismiss the applicants, the principal reason was that they had joined the union and had sought to use the union as the means of

The employers had resolved to alter the shift pattern of the applicants' employment as nursing home carers after their acquisition of the business following a transfer of ownership. The applicants were advised to join their union which they did. They refused to work the new shifts and were subsequently dismissed.

The industrial tribunal had decided that although their refusal to work their reassigned duties might have been a factor behind the decision to dismiss the applicants, the principal reason was that they had joined the union and had sought to use the union as the means of

The employers had resolved to alter the shift pattern of the applicants' employment as nursing home carers after their acquisition of the business following a transfer of ownership. The applicants were advised to join their union which they did. They refused to work the new shifts and were subsequently dismissed.

The industrial tribunal had decided that although their refusal to work their reassigned duties might have been a factor behind the decision to dismiss the applicants, the principal reason was that they had joined the union and had sought to use the union as the means of

The employers had resolved to alter the shift pattern of the applicants' employment as nursing home carers after their acquisition of the business following a transfer of ownership. The applicants were advised to join their union which they did. They refused to work the new shifts and were subsequently dismissed.

The industrial tribunal had decided that although their refusal to work their reassigned duties might have been a factor behind the decision to dismiss the applicants, the principal reason was that they had joined the union and had sought to use the union as the means of

The employers had resolved to alter the shift pattern of the applicants' employment as nursing home carers after their acquisition of the business following a transfer of ownership. The applicants were advised to join their union which they did. They refused to work the new shifts and were subsequently dismissed.

The industrial tribunal had decided that although their refusal to work their reassigned duties might have been a factor behind the decision to dismiss the applicants, the principal reason was that they had joined the union and had sought to use the union as the means of

The employers had resolved to alter the shift pattern of the applicants' employment as nursing home carers after their acquisition of the business following a transfer of ownership. The applicants were advised to join their union which they did. They refused to work the new shifts and were subsequently dismissed.

The industrial tribunal had decided that although their refusal to work their reassigned duties might have been a factor behind the decision to dismiss the applicants, the principal reason was that they had joined the union and had sought to use the union as the means of

The employers had resolved to alter the shift pattern of the applicants' employment as nursing home carers after their acquisition of the business following a transfer of ownership. The applicants were advised to join their union which they did. They refused to work the new shifts and were subsequently dismissed.

The industrial tribunal had decided that although their refusal to work their reassigned duties might have been a factor behind the decision to dismiss the applicants, the principal reason was that they had joined the union and had sought to use the union as the means of

The employers had resolved to alter the shift pattern of the applicants' employment as nursing home carers after their acquisition of the business following a transfer of ownership. The applicants were advised to join their union which they did. They refused to work the new shifts and were subsequently dismissed.

The industrial tribunal had decided that although their refusal to work their reassigned duties might have been a factor behind the decision to dismiss the applicants, the principal reason was that they had joined the union and had sought to use the union as the means of

The employers had resolved to alter the shift pattern of the applicants' employment as nursing home carers after their acquisition of the business following a transfer of ownership. The applicants were advised to join their union which they did. They refused to work the new shifts and were subsequently dismissed.

The industrial tribunal had decided that although their refusal to work their reassigned duties might have been a factor behind the decision to dismiss the applicants, the principal reason was that they had joined the union and had sought to use the union as the means of

The employers had resolved to alter the shift pattern of the applicants' employment as nursing home carers after their acquisition of the business following a transfer of ownership. The applicants were advised to join their union which they did. They refused to work the new shifts and were subsequently dismissed.

The industrial tribunal had decided that although their refusal to work their reassigned duties might have been a factor behind the decision to dismiss the applicants, the principal reason was that they had joined the union and had sought to use the union as the means



■ THEATRE 1

Hell, it seems, is *Disgracefully Yours*. Richard O'Brien's feeble new night of rock and smut



■ THEATRE 2

The sleazy side of Swansea: *Flesh* is an aimless but lively show about bodies bought and sold



THE TIMES ARTS



■ JAZZ

The magnificent Cassandra Wilson applies her smoky contralto to a superbly eclectic range of songs



■ MUSIC

Veteran touch: the 82-year-old George Lloyd conducts the premiere of his latest choral work

JAZZ

Hues of the blues

HEAVY with the musky odour of joss-sticks and filled with assorted guitars, the odd mandolin and a plethora of gongs, chimes and hand drums, the stage suggested that a species of New Age folk music was about to be played. American singer Cassandra Wilson's first selection, Neil Young's wistful ballad *Harvest Moon*, did little to dispel this notion. In a languorous, smoky contralto, she drawled out the song's plaintive, sentimental lyrics over a minimal but effective backing of steel guitar and softly chattering percussion, lightly decorated with the occasional cascade of harmonics from the band's musical director, guitarist Brandon Ross.

Son House's chilling *Death Letter Blues*, however, immediately shifted the scene firmly from Malibu to Wilson's birthplace, Mississippi, and — courtesy chiefly of Robert Johnson, whose classic blues, 32-20 and *Hellhound on My Trail* were the highlights of her subsequent 90-minute set — the spirit of the Delta

Cassandra Wilson
Queen Elizabeth Hall

blues hovered over the rest of the performance.

Wilson, the daughter of jazz musician Herman B. Fowles, started her musical life as a folk singer, subsequently joined a blues band, and rose to fame in 1980s New York with cutting-edge jazz figures such as Steve Coleman and Henry Threadgill, so her eclecticism is hard-earned and wholly uncontrived. In addition, she eschews gratuitous novelty in the songs she selects, always showing them in a new and unexpected light by approaching them in a highly personal manner.

Thus she managed to replace the bleak anguish of Hank Williams's *I'm So Lonesome I Could Cry* with a gentle, meditative melancholy without doing undue violence to the composer's intentions, and her brooding version of U2's *Love is Blindness* retained all the song's earnestness while jettisoning its bombast. In similar fashion she transformed the Monkees' *Last Train to Clarksville* from uncomplicated high-school fun-seeking to serious lovers' tryst, and imbued Van Morrison's *Tupelo Honey* with a languid sensuality lacking in the original.

Although both the band and she showed some rough edges, she left the audience on their feet, shouting for more.

CHRIS PARKER

THE SUBJECT, of course, is human flesh, young human flesh and, at least from time to time, prostituted flesh. The four youngsters from the Swansea-based, aptly named Frantic Assembly, present themselves in various guises, girl tart, boy tart, lovers, dispeasers, but though nobody could dispute their tomb-threatening energy, the argument of this 80-minute show is a wandering thread.

The limbs they threaten are their own. Time and again the choreography devised for them by Christine Devaney (from V-Tol Dance Company) requires them to fling their bodies onto the floor. Korina Biggs dies in Scott Graham's arms, collapses, is hauled up and goes down again. Likewise Cait Davis becomes a dead weight for Steven Hoggett to hold and drop.

Separately they crash on to the ground, or with a partner, spring up and do so again. Some sequences come with sexual gestures, in another they jump on Bibles; in yet others the emotions are unclear and seem just generalised rage or discontent.

The four are likeable bunch, and three of them performed in Frantic's last two shows, *Klub* and its physical, not very verbal version of *Look Back in Anger*. Graham and Hoggett look in their twenties but the girls look impossibly young, al-

most jailbait, adding a frisson to their accounts of servicing men in Cardiff hotels or dancing in their lingerie or Japanese conventions.

In their boots and black suits they begin by telling us about their desirable features, in the style of a sex ad, then turn the telescope and describe us — only guessing, of course, only guessing — which segues into the appraisals of a pimp. We hear what they want the money for, and the girls recall teenage flirtations with daddy. The boys' childhoods remain a blank, though drama teachers seem to have found their charms enticing.

Throughout these confessions they use their own names, in a text written for them by Spencer Hazel. He reveals an unusual fondness for biblical quotation and makes rather too liberal a use of Dylan Thomas' wordplay — though London Lighthouse and Mary Whitehouse make

a nice pairing. Twice Graham calls out "Stop" and sexual behaviour freezes. At the end, when the other three are doing a fair amount of groping, he throws a bucket of water over them.

I confess I could not decide what the show was telling us. Customers are not dismissed with contempt, neither economic hardship nor the dangers are emphasised, and there is not a single mention of drugs — extraordinary in a play about 1990s youth. The performers have an easy, conversational style that is certainly appealing, and are also pretty sexy, but while I am certain they want to convey something really urgent and moral, they have not yet found the signs and images to do so.

JEREMY KINGSTON

THEATRE: Richard O'Brien goes through Hell; plus sins of the flesh in Croydon

Repent, sinners, repent



Infernal nuisance: a devilish Richard O'Brien horns in as the Lord of Darkness in *Disgracefully Yours*

New ways with old influences

CONCERTS

LPO/Haitink
Philharmonia/Lloyd
Festival Hall

17th-century religious poem of that name, commissioned for the choir's 10th anniversary.

The choir's intensely committed singing was one of the virtues of the work's first hearing, as was the richly colourful, sometimes overcrowded, textures from the Philharmonia Orchestra. The soprano Janice Watson and baritone David Wilson-Johnson sustained their solos purposefully, even when the sheer weight and diversity of Lloyd's orchestration, redolent with brass and drums, rendered much of the vocal writing difficult to disentangle.

Haitink is not a conductor often associated with Dvorák, although he no doubt performed plenty of his music in his pre-operatic days, and he was a sympathetic advocate from the opening *Slavonic Rhapsody* (Op 45 No 3) onwards. This bowed along with splendid momentum and rhythmic impetus, and a blend of instrumental colour from the orchestral playing that extended into the concerto as well, where the pitfalls offered by lethargic tempo were firmly avoided.

Haitink also showed no inclination to indulge excessive sentiment in the *New World Symphony*, preferring to generate a resolute spirit in the music's progress, abetted by individual instrumental colouring of which Thomas Davey's cor anglais solo in the largo movement was only the most prominent example.

NOTHING if not dynamic in his 83rd year, the Cornish-born composer George Lloyd has delivered himself of a major new choral work and summoned the energy to conduct its premiere through almost an hour's duration. A *Litanie* is a florid setting of verses from John Donne's

NOEL GOODWIN

Battling Britten

OPERA

The Rape of Lucretia
RNCM, Manchester

voices to cast it is another question. Certainly, the two baritones — Adrian Power as Tarquinius and Peter Molloy as Junius — and the solitary bass — Richard Wood as a particularly impressive Collatinus — are more than adequate. The more dubious casting is Christine Rice as Lucretia: although it is a full-scale contralto part, her voice is too heavy until her lament at the end, where the expressive imperative and the vocal colouring most effectively coincide.

As for the Male and Female Chorus, one could wish for more control at the top of the range from Alberto Janeil and more clarity in general from Polly Kirwan.

Mat English's set is too spacious and too bright for claustrophobia, which is an essential element of the piece, but Stefan Janski's production is tacit in avoiding the she-really-wanted-it implications of Ronald Duncan's libretto.

GERALD LARNER

"THE NEXT TIME SOMEONE MENTIONS
A CLASSIC MOVIE AND SAYS
'THEY DON'T MAKE THEM
LIKE THAT ANYMORE!'
YOU CAN NOW TELL THEM THEY DO -
THE SHAWSHANK REDEMPTION
IS PROOF OF THAT."

News of the World



BARRY NORMAN'S
TOP
10
FILMS OF
1995

Nominated for 7 Oscars
including Best Film
and Best Actor

WIDESCREEN

Special Widescreen
Edition on video and
VIDEOD

OUT NOW
TO BUY ON VIDEO





CHOICE
Lesley Garrett
sings her way
through popular
classical ditties
VENUE: Sunday at
the Festival Hall



POP 1
Mark Knopfler's
first solo
album, *Golden
Heart*, reveals
a man seriously
out of touch



POP 2
... whereas
the Essex trio
Underworld
continue to woo
a broad public
to dance sounds



... and the
durable Taj Mahal,
in his 36th album,
offers a fine,
relaxed trawl
through the blues

LONDON

MUSIC AT THE SOUTH BANK
Conductor Andrew Davis, pianist Patrick Gallois and pianist Artur Pizarno team up with BBC Symphony Orchestra for the first of this weekend's musical highlights. Tonight: The London Philharmonic offers Mahler's Sixth Symphony and Chopin's Piano Concerto No. 1. Sunday: you can enjoy music theatre for families, Bach's St Matthew's Passion, pianist Till Fellner or a concert performance of Chabrier's Gwendoline. Box Office: (0171) 989 4242.

ALMELDA OPERA A starry line-up comes together for an evening of old and new opera transcriptions and variations, to benefit the theatre's annual capital campaign. The first theatre session, American names to the catch are Imogen Cooper, Leslie Howard, Jonathan Dove, Thomas Adès and James Crabb.

Almelda, Almeida Street, N1 (0171) 389 4404. Tues-Sun, 7.30pm.

ELSEWHERE STRING AND EXHIBITION Edgar何華士 leads the BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestra for the premiere of two commissions tonight. Alasdair Nicolson's *Broadside* and Lynn Creeswell's *Dragon* for accordion and

PI COMPANY Adam Lester, Sheila Goh, Sophie Thompson in an excellent staging of Sondheim's bewitched musical on marriage pro and connoisse. Almey, St Martin's Lane, WC2 (0171) 389 1737. Tues-Sat, 7.45pm; matins Wed and Sat, 3pm.

THE COMPLETE WORKS OF WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE (ABRIDGED) The RSC's (Reduced Shakespeare Company) popular, polished handling of the Bard's plays (from *Comedy of Errors* to *Henry IV*) continues with *Twelfth Night*. Tues, 7.30pm.

ELIZABETH AND MARY Shelia Hancock, Ron Cook, Dorothy Sutton in new Noel Williams play, a dark comedy reworking the death throes of an appealing chat show. James Corden directed. Piccadilly Theatre, St Martin's Lane, SW1 (0171) 920 1748. Now previewing, 7.30pm. Open March 27, 7.30pm.

JOSEPH AND THE AMAZING TECHNICK COLOR DREAMCOAT Philip Schofield plays the lead in a pretty Jack-in-the-box remake of the first Lloyd Webber-Peter Pan. Leila Khaled, Sophie Thompson, Queen Caroline Strudl, Hammerfest, W6 (0171) 416 4116

NEW RELEASES CYCLOPS (18) Over-telopul part of Ho Chi Minh City's urban hell. From the director of *The Scents of Green Papaya*, Tran Anh Hung. MGM/Studio Centre (0171) 437 4470.

JEFFREY (18) Should a gay man have sex? Life affirming (and lots)! Tats: Wm Steve Weber and Patrick Stewart. Director: Christopher Ashby. MGM/Studio Centre (0171) 352 5096. Shoreditch Avenue (0171) 326 6272. Colne Kensington (0171) 945 6565.

RHYTHM THIEF (18) Delicate love on New York's Lower East Side.

Energetic but exhilarating no-budget movie. Director: Matthew Hansen. Prince Charles (0171) 437 8181, today and Monday.

TOY STORY (PG) Computer-animated Disney delight with a cast of fratty toys. With the voices of Tom Hanks and Tim Allen. Directed by John Lasseter. Barefoot (0171) 438 8891. Clapton Picture House (0171) 998 3325. McRae Baker Street (0171) 993 9772. Cheeses (0171) 352 5096. Odeon/Kensington (0171) 352 4650. London (0171) 438 8891. Marks & Spencer (0171) 438 4470. Tots (0171) 438 4470. Tottenham Court Road (0171) 254 6677. Ritzy (0171) 737 2121. UCI Whiteleys (0171) 922 3322.

WEEKEND CHOICE

A daily guide to arts and entertainment compiled by Kris Anderson

orchestra. James Croft is the soloist (he is also London's Almeida on Sunday above). Over in Edinburgh, clarinetist Richard Stoltzman joins Teodor Currentzis and the Scottish Chamber Orchestra in a programme of Richard Rodney Bennett, Brahms and the like.

MINIATURES Arts Centre, University of String (0188 461031) Tonight, 8pm. Queen's Hall, Clerk Street (0131) 668 2019. Sat, 7.45pm.

LEEDS David Rose plays the lazing music hall entertainer, mourning the loss of the British Empire, in John Osborne's *The Entertainer*. A transfer from Birmingham Rep. Queen's Theatre, West Yorkshire Playhouse, Hall Mount (0113 244 2111) Mon-Sat, 7.30pm; matins Apr 3 and 17, 2pm and 4pm. Until April 13.

MANCHESTER In a busy weekend for the BBC orchestra, the great mezzo soprano Martha Birnbaum joins Yan Pascal Tortelier and the BBC Philharmonic for

an all-French tribute to the Director of the BBC Proms, John Drummond. Free Trade Hall, Peter Street (0161) 634 1712. Sat, 7.30pm.

SALISBURY The Playhouse transfers a new production of *Tales of the University*, from Derby. Mark Clemons' *Shakespeare* (by Colin Mays) and Tessa Woodward plays the plucky heroine betrayed by an encroaching modern world.

Playhouse, Methwold Lane (0722) 320333. Mon-Wed, 7.30pm; Thurs-Sat, 8pm; matins Thurs, 2.30 and Sat, 4pm. Until April 13.

LONDON GALLERIES British Museum: *Buddha Unveiling the Past* (0171 636 1555) ... Hayward, Sculpture and Film (071 222 3144) ... Methfessel Gallery: Lighton and His Sculptural Legacy 1875-1932 (0171 430 4215) ... National Gallery: Old Masters 1600-1700 (0171 730 2865) ... National Portrait Gallery: David Livingstone and the Victoria Encounter with Africa (0171 306 0055) ... Royal College of Art: *Frederick Leighton*; London's First Sculptor (0171 730 2865) ... Serpentine, *Jan-Michel Basquiat* (0171 723 9072) ... Tate: *Cezanne*, extended Sat hours (0171 887 8000) 0590 861 010) ... V & A: *The Leighton Frescoes* (0171 298 6500)

NEW ALBUMS: David Sinclair sees Mark Knopfler get lost on his first solo outing

In deep and dire straits

MARK KNOPFLER

Golden Heart
(Vertigo/Mercury 514 732)

HE REMAINS the architect of the bestselling British album of them all — *Brothers in Arms*, by Dire Straits — so you can never count him out completely. But even by the standards of a man who has long made a virtue out of being unfashionable, Mark Knopfler sounds a trifle out of touch on *Golden Heart*, his first solo album.

A collection of sedate rock and love songs, flavoured with discreet Celtic and country music textures, it is performed with Knopfler's customary ease and consummate fluency. Locating an unlikely point in the no man's land between roots-rock and easy listening, where penny whistle meets pedal steel, the opening track, *Darling Pretty*, finds this poetess of pickers at his most lugubrious: "There will come a day, Darling Pretty/There will come a day when hearts can fly."

That's as may be, but not for one moment does it sound as if this album will fly. As the gruff, barely whispered ballad of *Golden Heart* itself gives way to the soothing shuffle of *No Can Do* and the prim romanticism of *A Night in Summer Long Ago* ("My lady may I have this dance?"), you find yourself longing for something, anything, to happen.

There are moments when the pulse quickens, as on *Cannibals*, a retitled version of the Dire Straits hit *Walk of Life* with cajun trimmings. And *Imelda* introduces a heavier guitar sound along with a handful of southern blues licks (the lyric is about Imelda Marcos's penchant for buying shoes; how current is that?).

UNDERWORLD

Second Toughest in the Infants
(Junior Boy's Own JBOCD4)

ALTHOUGH hampered by a lack of proper record company muscle, Underworld caused a remarkable stir with their last album, the groundbreaking *duobasswithmyheadman*, released in 1994. One of the first serious dance acts to accommodate the tastes of the broader rock fraternity without surrendering one iota of credibility, the trio from Essex continue to weave restless collages of electronic rhythmic patterns, conventional instrumentation and odd, dislocated bursts of vocalises on the follow-up, *Second Toughest in the Infants*.

The opening track, *Juanita*, is a wondrous 16-minute epic that wears its Kraftwerk influences on its sleeve and provides a powerful springboard for

the unpredictable musical abstractions which follow. These range from the gently skittish jungle beats and jazzy piano chords of *Bansky/Sappys Curvy* to the systems music approach of *Blueski*, wherein a bluesy guitar riff is placed on a loop and subtle layers and twists are massaged into the mix at each four-hour revolution, rather like a piece of clay being turned on a wheel.

TAJ MAHAL

Phantom Blues
(BMG 0005 82139)

MONSTER MIKE WELCH
These Blues Are Mine
(Tonic-Cool TC 1154)

IT WOULD be hard to find two albums that demonstrate the durable and elastic appeal of the blues more forcefully than these offerings by 55-year-old veteran Taj Mahal and 16-year-old newcomer Monster Mike Welch. Mahal's 36th album (appropriately) is a relaxed, but wonderfully upbeat trawl through various under-exploited blues and R&B standards.

Welch's debut is a contrastingly explosive collection of original compositions, albeit firmly rooted in the 12-bar tradition, designed to showcase the astounding touch and technique of this Boston-based guitarist. With a sound and playing style which most closely resembles that of the late Stevie Ray Vaughan, Welch also passes muster as a vocalist. But he lacks the depth of expression which, as Mahal conclusively demonstrates, comes only with maturity.

RIDE

Tarantula
(Creation CRECD 180)

IT SEEMS hard to believe now, but before Oasis came along Ride were one of the Creation label's brightest hopes. Six years down the line and royally outclassed by the bands of the Britpop revolution, the Oxford quartet have wisely called it a day.

Their final album, *Tarantula*, which they have decided to delete just one week after its release, is the usual mixture of retro guitar riffs and personality-free harmony vocals shortening up carefully structured but strangely unmemorable tunes.

More than once, the lyrics betray some of the disillusionment that must have seeped into their hearts during the final months: "Drinking in a hotel room, I hate what I've become/I'm turning back to nothing, all my dreams have come undone." It's a sorry end to a promising career, and not an especially good album either.



Ever-ready to tackle the hot topics of the day, Mark Knopfler breaks the news that Imelda Marcos owns lots of shoes on *Golden Heart*

TOP TEN IN THE ALBUMS

1 (What's the Story) Morning Glory?	Oasis (Creation)
2 Second Toughest in the Infants	Underworld (Junior Boy's Own)
3 Countdown 1992-1993	Pulp (Nectar Masters)
4 Tarantula	Ride (Creation)
5 Definitely Maybe	Oasis (Creation)
6 Expecting to Fly	Bluetones (Superior Quality)
7 Post	Björk (One Little Indian)
8 Paranoid & Sunburnt	Skunk Anansie (One Little Indian)
9 Black Love	Afghan Whigs (Mute)
10 On	Echobelly (Faune)

From today, we are expanding our service to include specialist as well as general charts. Next week, look out for the Dance Top Ten. © CIN

ENTERTAINMENTS

ANTIQUES & ART FAIRS

BRITISH ANTIQUE DEALERS ASSOCIATION FAIR 19-20 March, Olympia, Westminster, 10am-8pm. Weekend 11-12 March, 10am-5pm. Tel: 0171 389 2200. DUNLOP'S

OF YORKS HEADQUARTERS (4 Strensall Sq) Knaresborough, HG5 8QD.

ART GALLERIES & EXHIBITIONS

ART CONNOISSEUR GALLERY, The Only permanent collection of painted Master Copies in London. Also the 19th and 20th Cent Original Paintings. Tel: 0171 389 2200. Price £2000.

CHAMPION GEM GALLERIES, Weston-super-Mare, Gloucs, BA3 2DD. Tel: 012 383 2000.

COLLECTORS' FAIR 19-20 March, 10am-8pm. Tel: 0171 389 2200.

THE PICCADILLY GALLERY, 16 Cavendish Square, W1 (0171) 438 2200.

THE WELSH CONTEMPORARY ART FAIR, 19-20 March, 10am-8pm. Tel: 0171 389 2200.

THE SUNSET BOULEVARD, Winner of 7 Two Years Standing.

CONCERTS 20th March, 7.30pm. Her Majesty's Theatre, Haymarket, SW1 (0171) 431 5051.

ROYAL OPERA HOUSE, Covent Garden, WC2H 4BT (0171) 580 3000.

ROYAL NATIONAL THEATRE, 20 Drury Lane, WC2B 4LP (0171) 580 3000.

ROYAL SHAKESPEARE COMPANY, Stratford-upon-Avon, Warwickshire CV3 5ST (0178 722 2222).

ROYAL OPERA HOUSE, Covent Garden, WC2E 7EA (0171) 580 3000.

ROYAL BIRMINGHAM METROPOLITAN OPERA, Birmingham, B1 1RJ (0121) 352 5096.

ROYAL LYRIC THEATRE, Covent Garden, WC2E 8RR (0171) 580 3000.

ROYAL OPERA HOUSE, Covent Garden, WC2E 8RR (0171) 580 3000.

ROYAL SHAKESPEARE COMPANY, Stratford-upon-Avon, Warwickshire CV3 5ST (0178 722 2222).

ROYAL NATIONAL THEATRE, 20 Drury Lane, WC2B 4LP (0171) 580 3000.

ROYAL SHAKESPEARE COMPANY, Stratford-upon-Avon, Warwickshire CV3 5ST (0178 722 2222).

ROYAL SHAKESPEARE COMPANY, Stratford-upon-Avon, Warwickshire CV3 5ST (0178 722 2222).

ROYAL SHAKESPEARE COMPANY, Stratford-upon-Avon, Warwickshire CV3 5ST (0178 722 2222).

ROYAL SHAKESPEARE COMPANY, Stratford-upon-Avon, Warwickshire CV3 5ST (0178 722 2222).

ROYAL SHAKESPEARE COMPANY, Stratford-upon-Avon, Warwickshire CV3 5ST (0178 722 2222).

ROYAL SHAKESPEARE COMPANY, Stratford-upon-Avon, Warwickshire CV3 5ST (0178 722 2222).

ROYAL SHAKESPEARE COMPANY, Stratford-upon-Avon, Warwickshire CV3 5ST (0178 722 2222).

ROYAL SHAKESPEARE COMPANY, Stratford-upon-Avon, Warwickshire CV3 5ST (0178 722 2222).

ROYAL SHAKESPEARE COMPANY, Stratford-upon-Avon, Warwickshire CV3 5ST (0178 722 2222).

ROYAL SHAKESPEARE COMPANY, Stratford-upon-Avon, Warwickshire CV3 5ST (0178 722 222



■ POP 4

From local hero to world star: how Nusrat Fateh Ali Khan won a global audience for Qawwali music



■ POPS

Cast reveal how to meet aliens, write hippy lyrics, and still get into the Top 20

THE ARTS



■ POP 6

If you want to hear a German woman called Billie Ray sing soul, Miss Martin's here



■ TOMORROW

Isabelle Huppert makes her British stage debut: read Benedict Nightingale's verdict

Beats with steel

THE world of pop is not over-enveloped with German singer who adopt country clichés and display a penchant for soulful ballads and modern dance beats. This is, in fact, a category with only one member: Billie Ray Martin.

Her eccentric road to fame led her last year to the hit *Your Living Arms*, a song that won both a solid dance-floor following and critical credibility, the latter partly because of her early associations with Electrile 101 and the Grid.

But it was the mixture of vocal passion and pulsing rhythms that guaranteed the long its success, and her live show follows the same formula. From the opening *Hands Up and Amen* to the final *You and I (Keep Holding On)*, her voice takes us back to the

Billie Ray Martin
UEA, Norwich

1960s sounds of Stax and Atlantic, while the drum sound whisks us forward into contemporary clubland.

Not that it is quite this simple. Her dress – a black number slit to the waist, and embellished by a silver-ringed belt – bears the mark of early 1970s disco, as do her strictly choreographed dance routines. Her singing, meanwhile, conjures up the dignified gospel of Aretha Franklin and the bare emotion of Lorraine Ellison. On *Deadline for my Memories*, she berated unseen lovers, her voice swooping from resentful anger to desperate pleading. And below all this rumbled the techno beats.

Martin added one further ingredient to her distinctive musical concoction: a pedal steel guitar. It joined the keyboards, percussion and backing singer that made up the rest of her band. So the gently rolling *Still Waters*, with its swooning guitar trills, sounded as if it were emerging from a fortuitously mistuned radio picking up several stations at once.

Occasionally she appeared to lose interest – her big hit was treated perfunctorily. But mostly she was enthralling, and she managed to fashion a quirky, inspired order out of her highly personal collection of elements.

JOHN STREET

David Toop meets Nusrat Fateh Ali Khan, ubiquitous superstar of world music



After the likes of Peter Gabriel and Eddie Vedder, Canadian Michael Brook is the latest westerner to call on Nusrat Fateh Ali Khan's magic

Best all-rounder since Botham?

The following day, still reeling from the intensity of the concert, I attempt to find some logic in the many contradictions raised by the congenial, reserved and round Khan. Nusrat lives in the expensive Lahore suburb of Faisal Town, his house guard armed with a machine gun. Inside, the music room walls are hung with photographs of Nusrat in the company of rock star Peter Gabriel, the inevitable Imran Khan, General Zia and other nobles. Despite random power cuts, constant visitors

and the shrilling of mobile phones, the peaceful atmosphere offers a respite from the noise barrage of car horns that rages in the street outside. For years, Nusrat was a frequent flier, performing concerts and recording cassettes for Pakistani and Indian fans living in all corners of the globe. His association with Peter Gabriel's Real World Records and the WOMAD Festival, however, saw a new phase in his career. World music's audiences were stunned by the passion and energy of Qawwali, the devotional music form of which Nusrat Fateh Ali Khan is regarded as the greatest living exponent.

For a while, Peter Gabriel's commitment to Nusrat seemed almost an indulgence. Now, the steady stream of releases and concert appearances is paying off. Two songs recorded with Pearl Jam's Eddie Vedder have been acclaimed in America as highlights of the *Dead Man Walking* soundtrack and a duet with Björk is mooted. Meanwhile *Night Song*, the new album produced by Canadian guitarist Michael Brook, proves that religious and musical traditions can survive and develop without compromise in the digital age.

Some of the puzzles created by such developments are difficult to fathom. I ask Nusrat how he is able to negotiate such a bewildering maze of musical styles: one week in India recording Bollywood film songs, then off to Wiltshire to lay vocals over Brook's fusion of ambient rock and trip-hop, then another week in America with Vedder, singing country-style ballads with slide guitars, then back to the home crowd in Pakistan for lengthy performances of traditional Qawwali.

"Because I have the basic knowledge of classical music and I have learnt all styles," he says, "there is no difficulty in adjusting. This is part of my family tradition." Not completely satisfied with this answer, I asked Brook for his impressions.

"I think we can't map our idea of the sacred and profane on the way he thinks about it," Brook says. "He's not exactly spreading the word, but he's spreading the sacred music. There's no such thing as bad publicity."

pace, the ecstatic repetitions burning on a longer fuse.

One question arises without fail when religious music is performed to audiences from other faiths or no faith at all. What can the music possibly mean when it is plucked out of its natural context?

The message of Qawwali is not only for Muslims, Nusrat says. "There have been very great people in all religions. Christians, Hindus, Sikhs, they all had good Sufis. The message of the Sufis is the same – how to reach to God – but they all have different ways."

So Sufism can be seen as a flexible, humanitarian belief system that sits at the core of a variety of religious practices. Nusrat appears to be applying this attitude to music, using his rhythmic and melodic virtuosity over Massive Attack's urban dub or Bally Sagoo's Asian hip-hop. The integrity stays intact because he is able to convey an unusual intensity of feeling to audiences, no matter how wide the linguistic and cultural gap.

In Pakistan, tension is rife. At one extreme is satellite television, featuring a flood of increasingly erotic film music clips from India; at the other extreme, the hardline mullahs condemn all singing and dancing as contrary to Islamic beliefs. With unshakeable devotion to the idea of music as spiritual expression, Nusrat sails on a wave of global popularity through these hazardous waters. As an improviser, he ranks alongside jazz greats such as John Coltrane, but his chameleon-like ability to blend into all environments places him at the forefront of music-making.

What I have to do is ensure that the beauty of the work does not get destroyed," he says, "but at the same time the new generation gets the message too. That is a lot of work."

• *Night Song* is released on Monday by Real World

Power and the morning glory

A fledgling Oasis with hippy lyrics and a space cadet at the wheel – Cast achieve perfection

In his spare time, Julian Cope makes up words. One of his best was "drude", a cross between "druid" and "dude". It's a highly appreciative term for those who are spiritually cool; who are plugged into their souls and attempt to broadcast some kind of higher consciousness.

Cast's John Power is most certainly a drude. His songs tackle subjects pop has ignored since the 1960s – the importance of being in touch with the land, at one with humanity, and constantly seeking a higher truth. Any kind of spirituality has been embarrassed out of pop since punk put cynicism and nihilism top of the agenda, dismissing any attempt at widening pop's reach as "hippy rubbish". That Cast have managed to write almost exclusively about "hippy" topics and still had a brace of Top 20 singles and a No 1 album is a tribute to Power's almost uncanny ability to write searing, dizzying harmonic choruses that remind one of the fledgling Oasis.

But it's this traditional rock element that has so vexed Cast's detractors. Their debut album, *All Change*, contains four fine singles and the sensuously epic *History*, but still seems too earth-bound, too four-square and regular to convey the thrill of Power's singular talent. The first time I heard Cast as they should be in a tiny, box-like room in Manchester, DJ, engineer and the band were all squeezed into what was, essentially, a converted shower cubicle, but Cast sang out so sweet and loud that I thought my skin would sweat sheet gold as I soaked it up from 4ft away. There was something wide and joyful here, the kind of music that aerates the blood and puts electricity in the skin. However, on record it generally sounds like six dustmen throwing the band into a pit.

"Ah, I wrote that album four years ago," Power sighs, stretching out on his hotel bed and drinking thirstily from a bottle of water. "The songs I was writing were a cry for attention, a declaration of intent. I'm still learning. None of us really knows that much about playing instruments, and writing songs is a difficult thing that you gradually master – I still don't quite know what I have to do is ensure that the beauty of the work does not get destroyed," he says, "but at the same time the new generation gets the message too. That is a lot of work."

And tonight, I played those same songs to 2,000 people – and more than half of them knew. I could see it in their eyes. And that makes me the happiest man in the world."

• The single, *Walkaway*, is released on Monday by Polydor



CAITLIN MORAN



The die is Cast: a sound "so sweet and loud that I thought my skin would sweat sheet gold as I soaked it up"

I'VE SEEN THE HISTORY OF ROCK 'N ROLL ...

AND IT'S
EMI GOLD



RE-ISSUED ALBUMS

&

CLASSIC COLLECTIONS

£5.99 CD £3.99 Cassette

AVAILABLE NOW

DIANA ROSS, KIM WILDE, LULU, MARILLION, FUN BOY THREE, SPANDAU BALLET, PETER TOSH, ELG, SANON, SUZI QUATRO, SHEENA EASTON, STEVIE NICKS, GO WEST, STEELYE SPAN, TOM ROBINSON, NEW MODEL ARMY, MUD, FAVERAS, KYM MAZELLE, MEL & KIM, PLUS MANY MORE...

EMI GOLD

THE GOLD



EDUCATION

John O'Leary introduces *The Times* five-day guide, starting on Monday, to your child's progress through the national curriculum.

After eight years of planning, piloting and arguing, the Government's testing programme in schools will be fully implemented this spring. Almost two million pupils aged seven, 11 and 14 will have their progress through the national curriculum assessed. Parents will find out how their children are doing and, for the first time, there will be some measure of primary schools' performance.

Teachers' acceptance of the tests (grudging or otherwise) has altered the climate in schools to such an extent that revision sessions are becoming commonplace. A daily series in *The Times* next week will enable parents to play their part in the process.

Many families remain baffled by the tests, unsure whether they matter to their children's future and taken aback by the unfamiliar nature of the papers. For all three

Parent primer for the classroom tests

age groups, the aim is to identify strengths and weaknesses, rather than to aid selection. But, in schools where any form of streaming is in operation, the results may influence future grouping.

Most 11-year-olds will be left in no doubt of the importance of the results to their school because they will be used to compile the first primary school league tables. The rankings, which will be published early next year, may prove highly influential in parents' choices of school.

For 14-year-olds, the tests are designed to be a step on the way to GCSE — for many the nearest they will come to a formal examination until then. The results can offer reassurance or a warning signal.

Testplan will provide sample questions from last year's tests, with tips from teachers on what to expect and how best to prepare. The series will help parents to put the results in context, unravelling the national curriculum's assessment system and showing how pupils fared last year.

For the newest tests, at 11, *The Times* has joined forces with the School Curriculum and Assessment Authority (SCAA) to produce three books of sample questions and advice. The separate books on English, mathematics and science are published by Her Majesty's Stationery Office.

The 11-year-olds will be the first to have taken more than one set of "Key Stage" tests, having been

they were introduced for seven-year-olds — and boycotted when the process reached secondary schools — national assessment is still unpopular among teachers.

Recent research among members of the generally moderate Association of Teachers and Lecturers showed that most staff still resented the time spent on last year's tests. Few felt that they revealed anything new about their pupils and there was a general belief that teachers' own assessments were undervalued.

There is little likelihood of further resistance from the teaching profession next term, however, when the tests are scheduled to take place. Although the National Union of Teachers is to debate a

motion at its annual conference demanding that the boycott is restored, the union's rules make action improbable.

Other unions, though unhappy with the introduction of more league tables, and critical of some of last year's marking, are not contemplating industrial action. More than 90 per cent of schools set the tests and reported the results in 1995, and the SCAA expects the proportion to rise again in May.

Ministers' original testing plans have been scaled down in line with the curriculum itself. As a result, the tests are limited to the core subjects of English, mathematics and science, with seven-year-olds assessed entirely by their teachers.

The papers have been designed to mirror classroom activity while concentrating on key areas. The first run of Testplan, last year, was welcomed by the SCAA as an encouragement to parents to involve themselves in their children's preparation. The signs are that this trend will accelerate in the weeks ahead.

Some relaxed familiarisation with the tests, using the sample questions to be published next week, should help pupils and reassure parents. The series begins on Monday with a timetable of this year's tests and a look at what will be expected of seven-year-olds. Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday will focus on 11-year-olds, with Friday devoted to the tests at 14.

The Parents' Guide to National Tests, published by HMSO, on sale at £4.95 each for English, mathematics and science.

London. She believes her chances of winning Rochdale, if selected, are high because of her track record in defeating the Conservatives.

"In my time in office, the Government tried to shut us down and we were the only Labour-led collective organisation to defeat them in 11 years," she says.

She agrees recent presidents have been on the "soft Left" and is right behind the current drive to convince students that they have to pay for higher education through a fairer loan system.

Stephen Twigg (president 1990-92) seems to have amassed the classic CV in preparation for a new Labour seat-in the Commons. He was elected to Islington council, in north London, within days of stepping down from the NUS presidency. Currently the Labour Party whip on the council, he is in a three-way contest for the leadership which will be decided next month.

Mr Twigg worked as parliamentary officer for Amnesty International and then for the National Council for Voluntary Organisations, before becoming an aide to Margaret Hodge, MP, in 1994. He has just left to work alongside Ms Fitzsimons.

"I joined the Labour Party at 15," he says. "The presidency put you through just about every political situation you will ever have to face."

The heir apparent at this year's NUS conference, which takes place next week in Blackpool, is another Scot, Douglas Trainer, the current president of NUS Scotland. He is the official Labour Student candidate for NUS president. Does he too aspire to reach Westminster?

"I think the career paths of my predecessors are very interesting but my main focus at the moment is to take NUS forward," says Mr Trainer. That's what they all said at 25.

Launchpad for a life in politics

The NUS presidency is a breeding ground for rising stars of new Labour, says David Charter

You appear on *Newnight*, the Today programme and *Question Time*. You have to chair an annual conference of 2,000 rowdy delegates and manage a staff of 80. Occasionally you have to fight deportations, or debate with government ministers. All by the time you are 25. No wonder the presidency of the National Union of Students is a breeding ground for new MPs.

The "mainstreaming" of the student movement is also evident from the progression of recent leaders who would once have espoused radical communism but now advocate new Labour. Four of the last six presidents are being lined up by the party for seats at the next general election.

They hope to emulate Jack Straw, the NUS's most auspicious old boy, who has risen from the presidency in 1969-71 to become Shadow Home Secretary.

Mr Straw's stewardship of the NUS is remembered for his attempts to make the union a serious political force by opposing calls for violent action after the 1968 French student revolt. In this sense, the class of '96 are his true heirs. The NUS has at times been a refuge for extremists, but recent presidents who since 1982 have all been Labour supporters, have tried to stamp out the sit-in mentality.

They include the current incumbent, Jim Murphy, a Scot

who has yet to complete his law and politics degree at Strathclyde University but, at 28, is on the shortlist to fight Glasgow Eastwood. His predecessor Lorna Fitzsimons, also 28, has four rivals for the Labour ticket in Rochdale.

She succeeded Stephen Twigg, who at 29 has been selected to fight against Michael Portillo in Enfield Southgate. Phil Woolas, holder of the office in 1984-86, is now a full-time officer for the GMB union. After one disappointment at the polls, in Littleborough and Saddle-

'It's an experience most people don't get till they're 50'

worth by-election, he has bounced back to win the nomination to fight the re-organised constituency in the same area.

These are merely the politically successful ones. Not one president since Straw has failed to progress to a high profile career, often with a dash of politics thrown in.

Take Sue Slipman, for example, president in 1977-78 and the first female leader of the NUS. A staunch member of the Communist Party while in office, Slipman changed her clothes to become a founder member of the short-lived Social Democratic Party. As an SDP candidate she fought unsuccessfully in two general elections — 1983 (in Basildon) and 1987 (Hayes and Harlington) — before renouncing party politics upon the merger of her party with the Liberals.

Ms Slipman, who ran the National Council for One Parent Families before becoming director of the London Training and Enterprise Council last year, is in no doubt why the top job in the student movement makes for budding MPs and high-profile personalities.

"Being NUS president is the most enormously enriching experience in which, at a very young age, you get to run an organisation which employs a large number of people, run a conference of 2,000 screaming Trotskyists, and negotiate with government ministers. It gives you a position most people do not normally get to until they are in their fifties."

This helps to explain why NUS presidents achieve success early in life. Several have made their mark in the media.

David Aaronovitch (president 1980-82) reached the top of the BBC's home affairs department before becoming a writer for *The Independent*. Trevor Phillips (the first black president in 1978-80) became a



Jack Straw, in 1970, opposed violent NUS action; Jim Murphy, top, and Stephen Twigg could be his natural heirs

presenter at London Weekend Television and rose to become head of current affairs before going freelance.

Maeve Sherlock (president 1988-90) runs Ukonka, an organisation which represents the interests of overseas students. Vicki Phillips (1986-88) is a solicitor after a stint as na-

tional women's officer at Labour Party headquarters. John Randall (1973-75) worked for a large public service union before becoming director of professional standards at the Law Society. Digby Jackson (1971-73) became an official with the MSF union after a brief teaching career.

But it is in politics that NUS presidents seem destined to make their most public mark. Neil Stewart (1982-84) worked for the former Labour leader Neil Kinnock from 1989 to 1992 and now runs his own conference, events and PR firm in London. Charles Clarke (president 1975-77), who was a

Kinnock aide for nine years, also runs a PR firm in the capital. Both men have been seeking Labour seats but so far without success — Mr Stewart missed out on Aberdeen at Christmas. Lorna Fitzsimons (1992-94) is now a political consultant for a lobbying company in



Jim Murphy, top, and Stephen Twigg could be his natural heirs

Jonathan Sale continues his series on university days



Acting as the Bad Student of Wits

When this became an Act in 1959, it sliced higher education into racial ghettos. "Known not affectionately" — as the Academic Apartheid Bill, this was a massive blow to academic freedom. I didn't know at the beginning that I was going to leave South Africa but it became clear that this was the final straw.

We were marching all the time, with banners saying 'Knowledge is colour-blind'. For two out of the three years I don't recall studying at all. It was an education in life rather than English and French, the subjects I was meant to be studying. Lectures seemed to get in the way of demonstra-

tions." Although a member of the dramatic society, she did not see herself as a budding actress. Yet her time on stage was not wasted: "I was so bad that it was going to be necessary to study this thing called acting."

"It was a sense of curiosity rather than overflowing ambition that brought me to drama school in London. We did a production of *Love's Labour's Lost* on Vespas. There was a production of *Julius Caesar* on the steps of the Neo-Classical Main Hall; for some reason I played Calpurnia as an Indian, in a shocking pink sari."

She made her exit immediately after her finals. "The exams were held in temporary huts built during the war. There was no air-conditioning and the temperature was in the 90s and 100s; you had to wipe your hand on your clothes before writing so that your pen didn't slip out of your fingers."

Then she was off. Her flight, the visas for which had so upset the Special Branch, was a round-trip of Europe's cultural hotspots organised by the fine arts faculty. For her, it was a one-way ticket.

She has been back to university, this time as Visiting Professor at Westfield College, as it was then, in London. Her career as one of Britain's leading actresses has not prevented frequent visits to her homeland — "South Africa is so deep in my blood I have never lost my passion for it" — and it was there that she directed a play for the first time. She leaves in May to direct her latest production, Brecht's *Good Woman of Setzuan*, shifted to a South African setting, it is retitled *The Good Woman of Sharzkville*. Any former secret policemen in the audience will remember the director as "The Bad Student of Witwatersrand".

Racially mixed Witwatersrand was humming with opposition to the Extension of University Education Bill.

Sophisters who have sailed through their A-level exams, gaining the highest grades, are being rejected by universities because they lack social skills.

One Cambridge tutor says: "We had to turn down one bright scientist this year because he was so boring. He could talk about nothing but horses."

Admissions tutors at Oxford and Cambridge have three or more applicants for each place (seven in veterinary science this year) and they have to find a way of selecting one.

Another tutor says: "It would be a refreshing change if schools told us occasionally about a minus point, such as possible nervousness at an interview. This could be quite helpful in the case of an outstanding candidate whose interview performance might detract from his or her other qualities."

Most schools are so busy dealing with their overriding importance of academic achievement that they tend to ignore the vital element in the selection process — the interview view but to eliminate any obvious failings.

Questionnaires completed by admissions tutors provide a useful insight into why students are spurned for non-academic reasons. One pointer is "lack of breadth of interests", for example on animal issues for veterinary science, and on social topics for applied social studies or social administration courses.

Business studies doesn't mention "lack of commercial interest and experience", while weaknesses in numeracy and literacy are also

Universities demand social skills, says Brian Heap

the student sitting across the table from a sympathetic, friendly teacher, unwilling to subject pupils to unfriendly

Lack of motivation and drive are also featured in some tutors' comments. One complained: "Some applicants aren't hungry enough." Others criticise pupils who "just dream about being lawyers".

The ability to manage one's time is also given as a priority as well as "the ability to pick yourself up at an interview after a difficult start".

Typical complaints reflect their subject areas.

In drama, for example, they complain about immaturity, poor interpersonal skills and lack of ability to respond to a challenge. Some applicants are badly advised at the outset. One boy arrived for a philosophy interview and asked the admissions panel to consider him for sports studies.

At the end of the day tutors seek several qualities and will reject the applicant who is unable to cope with questions about their studies.

As one said: "We look for interviewees who respond positively to ideas, who can think on their feet, who can intelligently engage with critical issues and sustain an argument. If they don't evince any of these qualities, then we reject them."

• Brian Heap is the author of *Degree Course Offers* (Trotman, £15.95).

Qualify to teach in Secondary Schools through Part-time study

If you are considering teaching as a career, and you already have or are about to obtain a degree, a new and innovative programme from the Open University leads to full recognition as a qualified teacher, and could meet your needs. Graduates in scientific, mathematical and technological disciplines are in particular demand in the teaching profession.

The Open University Postgraduate Certificate in Education has the following features:

- courses for Secondary teaching in Mathematics, Science, Technology, French, English, History and Music;
- part-time home-based study over eighteen months from February 1997 to July 1998, combined with three, four and six-week blocks of full-time experience in schools;
- courses include study guides, resource materials, video/audio cassettes and the use of information technology;
- support from an OU tutor and group study sessions;
- grants to cover the full course fees and a small maintenance grant for almost all students.

Please return the coupon below for a copy of the PGCE prospectus. The closing date for applications is 31 October.

The Open University, PO Box 625, Milton Keynes MK1 1TY
Please send me your Postgraduate Certificate in Education prospectus

Name _____

Address _____

Postcode _____

PGCE Hotline 01908 365302

University education and training open to all adults

TO ADVERTISE
CALL: 0171 8

TO ADVERTISE
CALL: 0171 680 6800

POSTS

THAMES VALLEY UNIVERSITY Board Members

Thames Valley University supports mass participation in higher education and is committed to playing a major part in the educational, cultural and economic life of the region.

The Board is seeking to appoint new members who are keen to contribute to the University's continued success and who are able to demonstrate experience and achievement gained at a senior level in one or more of the following areas:

The Health Sector

The Information Market Place

Law (City and European Legal specialists)

Finance

Marketing and Business Development

Appointments are usually for a term of three years and are made by the Governing Body. Members attend meetings at least three times a year and may be asked to serve on one of the Board's Committees. The time requirement varies but it is expected that this would be a minimum of ten days a year. Meetings take place in Ealing and Slough and travel expenses are paid. The positions are unsalaried.

The Board is under represented by women and ethnic minorities and welcomes applications from candidates in both of these categories.

If you are interested in joining Thames Valley University's Board of Governors and would like to receive an information pack and details of how to apply, write to:

Mary Joyce,
Secretary to the University & Clerk to the Board of Governors,
Thames Valley University
Unit 3,
Ealing Green,
London W5 5ED.
Closing date for applications is 26 April 1996.



Colfe's School

Trustee: The Worshipful Company of Leathersellers

BURSAR & CLERK TO THE GOVERNORS

Colfe's School is an independent HMC day school which has for over three centuries provided a first class education mainly for boys from all social backgrounds in SE London. It now has over 900 pupils including girls in the Sixth Form and Pre-Prep.

The Bursar is a member of the school's management team with particular responsibility for financial planning, accounting, property, personnel and administration. Senior management expertise in these functions is essential and experience in the education sector would be an advantage.

The Governors and Headmaster will make an appointment from 1 September 1996 with a view to taking over from the current Bursar who retires after long service at the end of the year. The person appointed will take over the post of Clerk to the Governors from 1 April 1997.

Salary: £15,000 - £18,000
Location: London SE12
Write in confidence with CV by 9 April to Bernard Simpson,
Charity Appointments, 3 Spiral Yard, London EC4A 0AQ.

charity appointments promoting professional leadership



City of London School For Girls

Founded 1394

The Barbican, London EC2Y 8BB

Telephone: 0171-638 0841 or Fax: 0171-638 3212

DEPUTY HEADMISTRESS

This post will become vacant in September 1996 following the appointment of Mrs. Tuck as Principal at The Cheltenham Ladies' College.

C.L.S.G. has its own Salary Scale
An application form and further details may be obtained from the Headmistress's Secretary.

Telephone: 0171-628 0841 or Fax: 0171-638 5212

Closing Date: Monday 1st April 1996

HAMPTON SCHOOL

Founded in 1556

APPOINTMENT OF HEAD

The Governors of Hampton School invite applications by 7 May 1996 for the post of Head following the appointment of Mr. G. G. Able to be the Master of Dulwich College.

Hampton is an Independent Day School for 945 boys aged 11 - 18, with 288 in the VIth Form. The current Head is a member of HMC.

Further information about the post which becomes vacant in 1997 can be obtained from The Clerk to the Governors, Hampton School, Hanworth Road, Hampton, Middlesex TW12 3HD. Fax No: 0181-941-8729.

(Hampton School is a charitable trust for the purposes of educating children)

EDUCATION

FAX:
0171 782 7899

3

EASTER REVISION

EASTER COURSES AT HERTFORD COLLEGE OXFORD A LEVEL & GCSE

For a prospectus call:

01865 242670/246119

Cherwell Towers

Sreybriars

Oxford, OX1 1LD

ABBEY TUTORIAL COLLEGE

BIRMINGHAM	All Subjects	0121 236 7474
CAMBRIDGE	Maths & Sciences	01223 328686
LONDON	Maths & Sciences	0171 229 5928
MANCHESTER	All Subjects	0161 236 6836

EASTER REVISION A Level & GCSE

Accommodation available
(Now interviewing for September 1996 1 & 2 year courses)

MAKE THE GRADE 'A' LEVEL & G.C.S.E. EASTER REVISION

Oxford Tutorial College
16 Gloucester Street
Oxford OX1 2BN

Tel. (01865) 793333 Fax (01865) 793233

St. Edmund's Oxford EASTER REVISION LAST REMAINING PLACES AT DISCOUNTED PRICES!

Also at Universities of:
Aston (Birm'ham)
Birmingham
Newcastle
Nottingham, Oxford, Cumbria,
(01865) 880141 24 hrs.

CHOOING A SCHOOL

Contact Gabbitas for independent, friendly, expert advice on suitable boarding or day schools and sixth-form colleges.

GABBITAS

EDUCATIONAL CONSULTANTS
126 - 130 Regent Street, London W1R 8EE
Tel: 0171 734 0161 Fax: 0171 437 1764

EASTER REVISION SUMMER RESULTS

- GCSE Specialists
- A-level Maths & Science
- Help with Exam Stress

DUFF PHEASANT
59 Queensgate London SW7 5JP
CIFE
Tel: 0171 225 0577

INTENSIVE EASTER REVISION

Our highly successful courses offer small group and 1-1 tuition in study and exam skills as well as most 'A' level and GCSE syllabuses.

EXPERIENCED TUTORS WITH EXCELLENT RESULTS

Surrey College
CALL (01483) 565887/300057
Shuttleworth House, Woodcote Road, Guildford, Surrey GU1 4RF

INDEPENDENT EDUCATION

"a fresh start"

One student's view of CATS (Cambridge Arts & Sciences), the independent 6th Form and Tutorial College. Others say: "terrific atmosphere" "individual attention" "fantastic teaching" "got me a place at University" "very good facilities".

We believe that a sense of independence, balanced by closely supervised personal responsibility, leads to academic success, and over the last 3 years 100% of our applicants have secured places in Higher Education.

Find out more about the benefits of a fresh start at CATS.

Tel: 01223 314431 CATS, Round Church Street, Cambridge CB5 8AD
Recognised as efficient by BAC.

COURSES

FRENCH COURSES IN PROVENCE

• Intensive French Courses

• French courses for immigrants

• French language courses

(For adults, business school students, teenagers, 16-18 year olds, etc.)

• French language courses for teenagers

الحملة

Leeds find solace in four-year sponsorship deal

By PETER BALL

LEEDS United quickly found consolation for their FA Cup defeat on Wednesday by Liverpool. Yesterday, they announced a new four-year sponsorship from Packard Bell to replace their existing deal with Thistle Hotels, which expires in the summer. "It is a tremendous relief," Bill Fotherby, the Leeds managing director, said. "It is the second largest sponsorship in the Premiership."

Leeds refused to give figures and although sources put the figure at £4 million over the four years, that is not consistent with Fotherby's claim, as Liverpool, Manchester United and Arsenal are believed to get sums well in excess of that.

The defeat of Leeds at Anfield was as comprehensive as the 3-0 scoreline suggests. Robbie Fowler and Stan Collymore have received most of the attention recently, but Steve McManaman has been a key figure in their flowing attacks, and on Wednesday he took centre stage with two goals.

"By ten to eight I thought that the best thing that could happen to us would be an injury to Steve McManaman," Howard Wilkinson, the Leeds manager, said yesterday as he prepared to lift his shaken team for the Coca-Cola Cup Final against Aston Villa on Sunday. Although Ford was booked for a fierce tackle on McManaman, the Liverpool forward shook off its effects and tormented Leeds.

Liverpool now meet Aston Villa at Old Trafford, while Chelsea qualified to meet Manchester United in the other semi-final with a resolute 3-1 victory against Wimbledon. The tie was in the balance until the closing min-

utes, when Chelsea's third goal made the win appear deceptively easy.

Having already beaten Newcastle United, also after failing to turn home advantage to account in the original tie, and with Manchester United to face Villa Park and then either Liverpool or Villa in the final, Chelsea will deserve their success if they win the trophy. "We are certainly doing things the hard way," Glenn Hoddle, their manager, conceded.

A misleading scoreline was not only to be seen at Selhurst



Revised semi-final draw
Liverpool v Aston Villa
(at Old Trafford, March 31, 4pm)
Manchester United v Chelsea
(at Villa Park, March 31, 3pm)

Park. Manchester United drew level on points with Newcastle at the top of the FA Carling Premiership by beating Arsenal 1-0, but as Bruce Rioch, the Arsenal manager admitted, the score did scant justice to United's football. "It was a comprehensive 1-0 victory," Rioch said.

Once again, Eric Cantona produced the goal that mattered, his ninth in the past 11 games, almost all of them decisive ones, but few as spectacular as the dipping volley on Wednesday. "He's every player you could wish for," Gary Neville, Cantona's team-mate, enthused. "He can be a target man, he can drop

off, he can pass, score goals. Eric can do everything. He is an inspiration."

"Eric is a legend, and the young lads absolutely love him. We look up to him. When he does what he did last night, you realise his importance to us. He is easy to play with — you just give him the ball as often as you can and he'll work wonders with it."

But if Cantona took the eye, Roy Keane was not far behind, and the Neville brothers celebrated their England call-ups with aplomb. "It's a dream come true for us," Gary said. "As youngsters, to come here to watch United play was our dream; then, even to get a game for them was our dream, so this is unbelievable. It has been a dramatic rise for us both."

If Philip Neville wins an England cap, they will become the twentieth pair of brothers to play for England, but another record is beckoning. If United win the championship, they will be the first pair of brothers to win championship medals in the same team. "It would be nice — but there are seven games left, and we've got to win those seven," Gary said.

□ The Scottish Football Association (SFA) has launched an inquiry into a fracas involving several players which took place at the end of the first division promotion encounter between Morton and Dunfermline at Cappielow Park on Tuesday. Bloody Orr, the referee, has filed his report to the SFA on the incident, which followed an injury-time equaliser by Morton. An SFA official confirmed yesterday: "We will put the matter in front of the disciplinary committee in May."

Park. Manchester United drew level on points with Newcastle at the top of the FA Carling Premiership by beating Arsenal 1-0, but as Bruce Rioch, the Arsenal manager admitted, the score did scant justice to United's football. "It was a comprehensive 1-0 victory," Rioch said.

Once again, Eric Cantona produced the goal that mattered, his ninth in the past 11 games, almost all of them decisive ones, but few as

spectacular as the dipping

volley on Wednesday. "He's every player you could wish for," Gary Neville, Cantona's team-mate, enthused. "He can be a target man, he can drop

off, he can pass, score goals. Eric can do everything. He is an inspiration."

"Eric is a legend, and the young lads absolutely love him. We look up to him. When he does what he did last night, you realise his importance to us. He is easy to play with — you just give him the ball as often as you can and he'll work wonders with it."

But if Cantona took the eye,

Roy Keane was not far behind, and the Neville brothers celebrated their England call-ups with aplomb. "It's a dream come true for us," Gary said.

"As youngsters, to come here to watch United play was our dream; then, even to get a game for them was our dream, so this is unbelievable. It has been a dramatic rise for us both."

If Philip Neville wins an England cap, they will become the twentieth pair of brothers to play for England, but another record is beckoning. If United win the championship, they will be the first pair of brothers to win championship medals in the same team. "It would be nice — but there are seven games left, and we've got to win those seven," Gary said.

□ The Scottish Football Association (SFA) has launched an inquiry into a fracas involving several players which took place at the end of the first division promotion encounter between Morton and Dunfermline at Cappielow Park on Tuesday. Bloody Orr, the referee, has filed his report to the SFA on the incident, which followed an injury-time equaliser by Morton. An SFA official confirmed yesterday: "We will put the matter in front of the disciplinary committee in May."

Hardcastle books Olympic return

By CRAIG LORD

WHEN Sarah Hardcastle last tasted Olympic success, she was 15. Margaret Thatcher had just swept to a second general election victory on the tide of patriotic fervour that followed the Falklands War and Big Brother ruled on behind the Iron Curtain. The year was 1984.

Yesterday, however, the teenage winner of silver and bronze medals at Los Angeles booked a return trip to the Olympics and the United States to race for Britain at the Atlanta Games in the 400 metres medley.

Describing herself as a "wise old woman", Hardcastle, 26 and married, said: "It means a lot more to me this time. I appreciate how hard it has been to make it."

Her victory, in 4min 51.07sec, at the Olympic trials in Sheffield, was a bold one. Having been led by Lucy Findlay, of Wycombe, for much of a race that comes second in priority to her distance freestyle events, Hardcastle broke down the deficit in the final freestyle leg.

"It hurt so much. I was nearly sick," Hardcastle, who goes to Atlanta as the only Briton with an international title (world short-course 800 metres freestyle) to her name, said. She was one of 12 swimmers to qualify.

Karen Pickering and Susan Ralph will represent Britain in the women's 100 metres freestyle yesterday. Pickering's 55.85sec world record was just 0.06 outside her own British mark.

Nick Gillington swam the heats yesterday but withdrew from the final, his intention being to swim only the 200 metres breaststroke in Atlanta. In the 200 metres freestyle, Paul Palmer drew Andrew Clayton below him 50sec for the first time and both duly qualified.

Expect a meteoric pace from Palmer in his best events (400 metres and 1,500 metres freestyle) over the next two days; he yesterday revealed that he trains with a metronome ticking in his ear beneath his cap. The machine sets the pace that Palmer must produce for an Olympic medal.

Karen Pickering and Susan

Ralph will represent Britain in the women's 100 metres freestyle yesterday. Pickering's 55.85sec world record was just 0.06 outside her own British

record.

Expect a meteoric pace from Palmer in his best events (400 metres and 1,500 metres freestyle) over the next two days; he yesterday revealed that he trains with a metronome ticking in his ear beneath his cap. The machine sets the pace that Palmer must produce for an Olympic medal.

Karen Pickering and Susan

Ralph will represent Britain in the women's 100 metres freestyle yesterday. Pickering's 55.85sec world record was just 0.06 outside her own British

record.

Nick Gillington swam the

heats yesterday but withdrew

from the final, his intention

being to swim only the 200

metres breaststroke in Atlan-

ta. In the 200 metres freestyle,

Paul Palmer drew Andrew

Clayton below him 50sec for

the first time and both duly

qualified.

Expect a meteoric pace from Palmer in his best events (400 metres and 1,500 metres freestyle) over the next two days; he yesterday revealed that he trains with a metronome ticking in his ear beneath his cap. The machine sets the pace that Palmer must produce for an Olympic medal.

Karen Pickering and Susan

Ralph will represent Britain in the women's 100 metres freestyle yesterday. Pickering's 55.85sec world record was just 0.06 outside her own British

record.

Nick Gillington swam the

heats yesterday but withdrew

from the final, his intention

being to swim only the 200

metres breaststroke in Atlan-

ta. In the 200 metres freestyle,

Paul Palmer drew Andrew

Clayton below him 50sec for

the first time and both duly

qualified.

Expect a meteoric pace from Palmer in his best events (400 metres and 1,500 metres freestyle) over the next two days; he yesterday revealed that he trains with a metronome ticking in his ear beneath his cap. The machine sets the pace that Palmer must produce for an Olympic medal.

Karen Pickering and Susan

Ralph will represent Britain in the women's 100 metres freestyle yesterday. Pickering's 55.85sec world record was just 0.06 outside her own British

record.

Nick Gillington swam the

heats yesterday but withdrew

from the final, his intention

being to swim only the 200

metres breaststroke in Atlan-

ta. In the 200 metres freestyle,

Paul Palmer drew Andrew

Clayton below him 50sec for

the first time and both duly

qualified.

Expect a meteoric pace from Palmer in his best events (400 metres and 1,500 metres freestyle) over the next two days; he yesterday revealed that he trains with a metronome ticking in his ear beneath his cap. The machine sets the pace that Palmer must produce for an Olympic medal.

Karen Pickering and Susan

Ralph will represent Britain in the women's 100 metres freestyle yesterday. Pickering's 55.85sec world record was just 0.06 outside her own British

record.

Nick Gillington swam the

heats yesterday but withdrew

from the final, his intention

being to swim only the 200

metres breaststroke in Atlan-

ta. In the 200 metres freestyle,

Paul Palmer drew Andrew

Clayton below him 50sec for

the first time and both duly

qualified.

Expect a meteoric pace from Palmer in his best events (400 metres and 1,500 metres freestyle) over the next two days; he yesterday revealed that he trains with a metronome ticking in his ear beneath his cap. The machine sets the pace that Palmer must produce for an Olympic medal.

Karen Pickering and Susan

Ralph will represent Britain in the women's 100 metres freestyle yesterday. Pickering's 55.85sec world record was just 0.06 outside her own British

record.

Nick Gillington swam the

heats yesterday but withdrew

from the final, his intention

being to swim only the 200

metres breaststroke in Atlan-

ta. In the 200 metres freestyle,

Paul Palmer drew Andrew

Clayton below him 50sec for

the first time and both duly

qualified.

Expect a meteoric pace from Palmer in his best events (400 metres and 1,500 metres freestyle) over the next two days; he yesterday revealed that he trains with a metronome ticking in his ear beneath his cap. The machine sets the pace that Palmer must produce for an Olympic medal.

Karen Pickering and Susan

Ralph will represent Britain in the women's 100 metres freestyle yesterday. Pickering's 55.85sec world record was just 0.06 outside her own British

record.

Nick Gillington swam the

heats yesterday but withdrew

from the final, his intention

being to swim only the 200

metres breaststroke in Atlan-

ta. In the 200 metres freestyle,

Paul Palmer drew Andrew

Clayton below him 50sec for

the first time and both duly

qualified.

Expect a meteoric pace from Palmer in his best events (400 metres and 1,500 metres freestyle) over the next two days; he yesterday revealed that he trains with a metronome ticking in his ear beneath his cap. The machine sets the pace that Palmer must produce for an Olympic medal.

Karen Pickering and Susan

Ralph will represent Britain in the women's 100 metres freestyle yesterday. Pickering's 55.85sec world record was just 0.06 outside her own British

record.

Nick Gillington swam the

heats yesterday but withdrew

from the final, his intention

Rivals left to fret over Eriksson's positive approach

FROM MEL WEBB IN LISBON

THE golfers of the PGA European Tour have been visited by all manner of impediments this season, and yesterday another variety of meteorological nastiness left players kicking their heels frustratedly as it caused a long delay before the Portuguese Open could get under way at Aroeira, ten miles south of Lisbon.

There was rain in Singapore, South Africa and Dubai, and the Catalan Open was reduced to 36 holes by gales. This time it was a heavy sea fret that crept in from the nearby Atlantic at dawn, which meant a delay of 2hr 10min and an incomplete first round. All that is needed to complete the set is fire, snow and a plague of locusts.

There was no fire yesterday, but there was heat of another kind as Klas Eriksson, the young Swede, lit the blue touch-paper and scorched round the course in 63, eight under par, to finish his day leading in the clubhouse by two shots. There were still dozens of players on the course as dusk fell, and if the fog clears off and mends its own business, the first round will be completed this morning.

Like most of his fellow competitors, Eriksson, 24, who leads Wayne Riley by two shots, and Russell Clayton

and Ricky Willison by three, found the soft, slow and slope-ridged greens a constant challenge to the assembly of a good score. However, a sequence of nine birdies in 11 holes from the 5th can in the bud any small complaint that he might have had.

Riley's view on the putting surfaces was typical. "They look like they've just run the Grand National on them," he said. A slight exaggeration, perhaps, but you know what I mean."

To be fair, the greenkeepers at Aroeira have been working

Results 39

under the most adverse conditions in the past few months; the amount of rain that has fallen here since December would have them positively salivating at Yorkshire Water. It did not alter the fact, though, that things were not easy ... unless your name happened to be Klas Eriksson, that is. He dropped only one shot on the short 4th, when he missed the green on the tee and failed to get up and down.

He might have been rattled, might have slid towards the sort of diffident golf that has seen him miss the cut in every one of the four tournaments in

Eriksson came into this tournament after being on the receiving end of a lecture from his father, who preached the gospel of positive thinking. "He told me that if I got to two under, I must immediately look for three, then four, and so on," Eriksson said. "I tried to today." Birdies eight and nine, at the 14th and 15th, would seem to indicate that Eriksson Sr had made his point, with bells on.

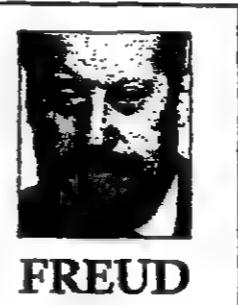
They use air pistols, fire from a distance of ten metres, one shot per 40 seconds at a target with an inner and outer bull worth ten points; two exterior circles within the central black ring scoring nine and eight; the less accurate the shot, the lower the score. Perfection would be 200 from 20 shots. A score of 172 yields 1,000 modern pentathlon points.

It is shooting day at the Varsity modern pentathlon match. Cambridge are tipped to win again; Oxford remain hopeful, "quietly optimistic about our chances" as the official version. In the dining room, where we had the sort of lunch about which one feels neutral and praises standards of hygiene. Andersen Consulting, sponsor of the event,



Allen, of Cambridge, summons intense concentration during the pistol shooting discipline of the Varsity modern pentathlon match

Oumpa's sixth discipline scores high



FREUD ON FRIDAY

It is 3pm in a hall in Tonbridge, Kent. A Wizard-of-Oz of an invigilator has said: "Ladies, uncase your pistols." He then tells them to load, then shoot, then stop. Four young eardrummed women, two each from Oxford and Cambridge, are now awaiting further orders, sitting with their heads in their hands like mourners who have arrived early for a funeral service.

They use air pistols, fire

from a distance of ten metres, one shot per 40 seconds at a target with an inner and outer bull worth ten points; two exterior circles within the central black ring scoring nine and eight; the less accurate the shot, the lower the score. Perfection would be 200 from 20 shots. A score of 172 yields 1,000 modern pentathlon points.

Today's complete pentathlon runs and swims; shots and fences and rides. In each discipline, excellence is marked with a score of 1,000 points, in pistol shooting for achieving 172. Twelve points are added to the magic thousand for each extra score or deducted for underperformance.

In running, the men execute

four laps of a 1,000-metre cross-country course; a time of 7min 40sec is worth 1,000 points. Five pentathlon marks are added or subtracted per completed second within or outside this time. Swimming's 1,000 requires eight 25-metre lengths in 2min 54sec, with

competitors, three from Great Britain and of the ten Swedes who competed, six finished in the first seven. Until a German victory in 1936, Swedish athletes dominated the sport. Then came the Hungarian era, followed by Pavel Lednev with two golds, two silvers and three bronze between 1968 and 1990.

Britain's only individual success was a bronze in Mexico by the then Sergeant Jim Fox, though we won the team gold medal in Montreal, 1976. Fox, Nightingale and Parker. But British women won every world event in the late Seventies and early Eighties and continue to dominate pentathlonism on the distaff side.

Julia Allen, 24, comes from Abingdon, in Oxfordshire, is a sixth and final-year veterinary student at Cambridge and probably our finest pentathlete. (Sadly, women's pentathlon is not an Olympic sport.) She swam from the age of seven, joined her local pony club at around that time is a natural athlete, a brilliant shot and "rubbish at fencing".

Unlike the decathlon, in which each discipline demands athletic brilliance, technique and stamina, the

modern pentathlete is a multi-faceted beast who must be half asleep and rigid during the shoot; wide awake and running for the épée, a natural runner who spends a lot of time in the swimming pool, and is an adequate horseman with the substantial luck to be allocated an empathetic horse.

Ed Egan, Oxford final-year medic, was bred for this event by his father Michael, is one of our Olympic hopes, has achieved a score of 5,603, which is outstanding. In Atlanta, all five disciplines are contested in one day. At Tonbridge, the competition spans Thursday, Friday, Saturday, is altogether less frenetic, more fun ... as it should be when half the participants bear the letters OUMPA on their tracksuits and have the crown of Oxford shaved from the backs of their heads.

There is also constant conjecture on whether it is to be Saturday night's post-pentathlon banquet with Beef Wellington on the menu, or the late-night cross-germination of ideas between the men and women which will comprise the sixth discipline, and how is the scoring to be other than subjective?

Swedes winning mind games

FROM PATRICIA DAVIES IN PHOENIX

AT ANY given golf tournament, in any given week, in whatever part of the world, there is one certainty: if there is a Swede playing, there will be a Swede on the leaderboard. Yesterday, in the first round of the Standard Register Ping event here at Moon Valley, the dutiful player was Carin Hj Koch, who was three under par after ten holes, a shot behind Barb Mucha of the United States, who started with an eagle three at the 10th.

Koch, née Hjalmarsson (hence the hiccup in the middle of her name), was one of the dew sweepers, alongside her compatriot, Catrin Niemi.

mark-Wickberg (marriage explains the double-barrelled tendency). Nilmark, who holed the winning putt in the Solheim Cup at Dalmahoy, started with a birdie three but went out in 37, one over par, after a double-bogey six at the 9th.

Koch, 25, is in her second year on the US tour. In 1995 she earned a respectable \$129,313 (about £85,000) and was 48th on the money-list. "She's swinging well and has a good attitude," a seasoned observer said this week.

A good attitude is not something the Swedes acquire by accident. The Swedish Golf Federation's national team

programme, designed to make Sweden one of the best golf nations in the world, does not confine itself to technical matters. The mind and the whole being are involved, too. The main goal, according to documented philosophy, "is to give our players a chance to educate themselves in all aspects needed to succeed in the game of life and the game of golf". The first name of these areas is "attitude".

Alison Nicholas, an English Solheim Cup stalwart, went out in 38, one over par, after starting at the 10th, but Kathryn Marshall, of Scotland, was two under, having gone out in 35.

It is shooting day at the

Varsity modern pentathlon

match. Cambridge are tipped to win again; Oxford remain hopeful, "quietly optimistic about our chances" as the official version. In the dining room, where we had the sort of lunch about which one feels neutral and praises standards of hygiene. Andersen Consulting, sponsor of the event,

SHEEHAN on BRIDGE

By ROBERT SHEEHAN, BRIDGE CORRESPONDENT

Dealer North Love all Rubber bridge

97832
▼AJ4
♦QJ9
♦AQ3
■K972
♦1084
♦J10768

W

1 NT (12-14)

Pass

4 C (1)

Pass

4 H (2)

Pass

All Pass

Contract: Six Spades by South Lead: Jack of clubs

trump suit for no loser and the way to do this is to take a first-round finesse.

The solution is not hard to spot. Rather than draw trumps immediately, declarer should first take a heart finesse. On this occasion, it will win, so declarer can afford to make the safety play in trumps. Had the queen of hearts lost to the king, declarer would have had to take a first-round trump finesse, thus still making his contract when South wanted to hear.

The theme of this hand has come up in a previous Refresh. South's main problem is how to play the trump suit. The standard safety play of this suit combination is to cash the ace and later lead up to the queen. Thus, declarer does not lose to the singleton king offside. However, the trouble with this play is that it guarantees that there will be at least one loser in the suit. This does not matter if the heart finesse is right, but if the heart finesse is wrong, declarer's only chance is to play the

square of cards.

Robert Sheehan writes on bridge Monday to Friday in Sport and in the Weekend section on Saturday.

WORD WATCHING

By Philip Howard

ABNEY

a. A denial
b. A Suffolk signpost
c. An angular instrument

GONGORA

a. The Portuguese Inquisition
b. An orchid
c. Stuttering

DOGAN

a. To ditch
b. A Roman Catholic
c. A portable bed

CANOT

a. Sugar cane
b. A refusal
c. A big canoe

Answers on page 42

KEENE on CHESS

By RAYMOND KEENE

CHESS CORRESPONDENT

Anti-computer strategy

While world champion Garry Kasparov was overcoming the resistance of IBM's Deep Blue mainframe computer in Philadelphia, Nigel Short also took on the world micro-computer champion in a two-game-match in Ecuador. Short took a leaf from Kasparov's book and applied slow manoeuvring tactics which ultimately led to the machine's strangulation in a long endgame. The key to computer-hostile strategy is to avoid open positions leading to sharp tactics at which the computers excel.

White: MChess Pro

Black: Nigel Short

Guayaquil, February 1995

French Defence

1 e4 e5 2 Nf3 Nc6 3 Bb5

4 c4 Nf6 5 d4 Bb4 6 Nc3

7 Nf3 d5 8 Bg5 Nf6 9 Nc3

10 Nf3 Nc6 11 Bxf6 Bxf6 12 Nc3

13 Nf3 Nf6 14 Bxf6 Bxf6 15 Nc3

16 Nf3 Nc6 17 Nc3 Nf6 18 Nf3

19 Nf3 Nf6 20 Nc3 Nf6 21 Nf3

22 Nf3 Nf6 23 Nc3 Nf6 24 Nf3

25 Nf3 Nf6 26 Nc3 Nf6 27 Nf3

28 Nf3 Nf6 29 Nc3 Nf6 30 Nf3

31 Nf3 Nf6 32 Nc3 Nf6 33 Nf3

34 Nf3 Nf6 35 Nc3 Nf6 36 Nf3

37 Nf3 Nf6 38 Nc3 Nf6 39 Nf3

40 Nf3 Nf6 41 Nc3 Nf6 42 Nf3

43 Nf3 Nf6 44 Nc3 Nf6 45 Nf3

46 Nf3 Nf6 47 Nc3 Nf6 48 Nf3

49 Nf3 Nf6 50 Nc3 Nf6 51 Nf3

52 Nf3 Nf6 53 Nc3 Nf6 54 Nf3

55 Nf3 Nf6 56 Nc3 Nf6 57 Nf3

58 Nf3 Nf6 59 Nc3 Nf6 60 Nf3

61 Nf3 Nf6 62 Nc3 Nf6 63 Nf3

64 Nf3 Nf6 65 Nc3 Nf6 66 Nf3

67 Nf3 Nf6 68 Nc3 Nf6 69 Nf3

70 Nf3 Nf6 71 Nc3 Nf6 72 Nf3

73 Nf3 Nf6 74 Nc3 Nf6 75 Nf3

76 Nf3 Nf6 77 Nc3 Nf6 78 Nf3

79 Nf3 Nf6 80 Nc3 Nf6 81 Nf3

82 Nf3 Nf6 83 Nc3 Nf6 84 Nf3

85 Nf3 Nf6 86 Nc3 Nf6 87 Nf3

88 Nf3 Nf6 89 Nc3 Nf6 90 Nf3

91 Nf3 Nf6 92 Nc3 Nf6 93 Nf3

94 Nf3 Nf6 95 Nc3 Nf6 96 Nf3

97 Nf3 Nf6 98 Nc3 Nf6 99 Nf3

100 Nf3 Nf6 101 Nc3 Nf6 102 Nf3

103 Nf3 Nf6 104 Nc3 Nf6 105 Nf3

106 Nf3 Nf6 107 Nc3 Nf6 108 Nf3

109 Nf3 Nf6 110 Nc3 Nf6 111 Nf3

112 Nf3 Nf6 113

Doncaster executive proposes radical change for traditional fixture

April date sought for Lincoln meeting

By RICHARD EVANS, RACING JOURNALIST OF THE YEAR

THE Lincoln meeting, which spluttered into life at a chilly and mist-shrouded Doncaster yesterday, could soon be staged in April after the Grand National at Aintree.

The traditional starting point for the new turf Flat season is increasingly feeling the effects of being squeezed between National Hunt's two popular Festivals — Cheltenham and Aintree — and Doncaster racecourse is set to propose a fixture shake-up to

RICHARD EVANS

Nap: TO THE ROOF
(4.10 Doncaster)
Next best: Noyan
(3.05 Doncaster)

the British Horseracing Board (BHB).

John Sanderson, chief executive at Doncaster and a BHB member, said: "There is nothing magic about this week in March. It is just tradition and there has to be a case for moving the Lincoln."

On an afternoon which Sanderson accurately described as being more like a jumping day at Catterick in December, he admitted: "It is not a great start to the British Flat racing season."

"I would like to think the real Flat racing season continued to start here with the Lincoln at Doncaster. If it makes it more attractive promotionally and for racing generally to move it to the other side of the National, what is wrong with that?"



First Island is earmarked for Royal Ascot after a fine victory in the Stones Bitter Doncaster Mile yesterday

There can be no doubt the development of all-weather Flat racing during the winter months and the increased popularity of Cheltenham, in particular, and Aintree have affected the Lincoln meeting. It no longer holds such an important place in the affection of racing people.

Doncaster's proposal is likely to form part of a package aimed at having more racing

at the racecourse which stages the oldest classic. The home of the St Leger at present stages just 27 days racing — including only seven National Hunt fixtures. A scheme has already been drawn up to widen the jumps course and Sanderson would like to stage between 40 and 50 racing days.

Doncaster and Newmarket provide the best two surfaces in European racing and we

have the capacity to use this to provide consistently reasonable ground for Flat racing throughout the summer. By the same token, it is a great shame not to put on more jump racing because there is plenty of space."

While the more conservative elements within racing are likely to rail against such radical change, I hope the BHB will give Doncaster's

HUGH ROUTLEDGE

offers the opportunity to see where the Lincoln should be slotted into racing's life," Sanderson added.

If the racing authorities are not prepared to agree lock, stock and barrel with Doncaster's blueprint, they may wish to consider the idea of a mixed meeting at Doncaster in March. Flat and jumps come together at Sandown when the Whitsun Gold Cup and Thresher Classic Trial are staged on the same day in April and the meeting has proved immensely popular down the years.

Despite yesterday's wintry conditions, First Island produced a sparkling turn of foot to win the Stones Bitter Doncaster Mile and it was no surprise to hear his trainer, Geoff Wragg, talk in terms of the Queen Anne Stakes at Royal Ascot as a likely target.

Held up at the rear of the seven-strong field, Michael Hills eased the 9-2 shot nearer the lead coming down the straight before streaking to the front at the furlong pole and winning by a length and a half from Wijara, the long-time leader. Nwaamis, the disappointing favourite, finished 2½ lengths away in third.

Hills reported: "He took me so easily. Once I showed him an opening he took off. He's a lot stronger and different mentally to last year."

The son of Dominion carries the colours of Mollers Racing, who will be represented in the Dubai World Cup and was not disgraced behind Traingat at Cheltenham. En Vacances progressed last term and should be thereabouts.

Reg Akehurst won this with Sharp Prospect last year and it will be no surprise to see the former

RICHARD EVANS

Versatile Noyan fits the bill

DONCASTER CHANNEL 4

2.35: The John Gosden-trained Domak Amaam, who will be ridden by Frankie Dettori, is likely to be a popular order judged on his good second to the well-regarded Pivotal at Newcastle last term. The Dominion colt should relish the return to seven furlongs and is the form choice.

Mansab is another who will suited by the longer trip, but it could be worth taking a chance with Sorbie Tower. He showed plenty of promise on his second start last term, "winning" the race on the far side at Warwick to finish second. Gay Kelleway rates this useful-looking son of Soviet Lad.

3.05: Upper Mount Clair sprung a 33-1 shock when taking this race last year and Clive Brittain's stayer has a sound chance of following up, having won twice over two miles at Southwell this year. However, this early-season stamina test tends to go to a lightly-weighted four or five-year-old who has been running in decent hurdle company.

Noyan, who won twice on the Flat last year for Lennie Lungo before moving to David Nicholls, fits the bill perfectly. He has been running in decent handicap company over hurdles and was not disgraced behind Traingat at Cheltenham. En Vacances progressed last term and should be thereabouts.

3.40: Reg Akehurst won this with Sharp Prospect last year and it will be no surprise to see the former



TODAY'S RACES ON TELEVISION

Dick Hern-trained Mihriz run well on his debut for the new yard. The Machiavellian gelding is fairly treated on his early-season form last spring.

The consistent Aeroking deserves a race but preference is for Mister Fire Eyes, a winner at this meeting 12 months ago, who has shown markedly improved form on the all-weather during the winter. His latest start at Wolverhampton three weeks ago, after a three-month absence, should have put Clive Brittain's runner spot on for this competitive handicap.

4.10: I am keen on the chances of To The Roof for three reasons. Despite being a maiden, the form of the sprinter from the in-form Peter Harris yard is arguably the best on offer and he had a plum draw from stall 22. Also, the Thatching gelding has been hobbled since finishing a good second at Chepstow last season so further improvement can be anticipated. Bolshoi, who won first time out last year, looks nicely weighted and can be given a chance along with Sycamore Lodge.

RICHARD EVANS

DONCASTER

THUNDERER
1.30 Contravene
2.05 Three Miles
2.35 DOMAK AMAAM

Our Newmarket Correspondent: 2.35 DOMAK AMAAM (nap).
3.05 Mizyan, 3.40 Mister Fire Eyes.

GOING: GOOD TO SOFT
TOE JACKPOT MEETING SIS

1.30 CYSTIC FIBROSIS MAIDEN SELLING STAKES
(2-Y-O; £2,560; 7f (7 runners))

101 (1) NATIE'S STUDS Stud A Newmarket 9-0 — L. Detrait
102 (3) CONTRAVENE (W Bars) Mr Berry 8-9 — J. Carroll
103 (7) DON'T FORGET SHINE (Mr E Groves) 3 Moore 8-9 — J. F. Hayes
104 (6) HURRY (W Bars) Mr Berry 8-9 — C. Murphy (?)
105 (5) HIT OR MISS (Lover) Mr Berry 8-9 — T. Williams
106 (2) RAHONA (S Motley) B Retired 8-9 — M. Fenton
107 (4) BYERS FLYER (Mrs J Canney) R Thompson 8-9 — T. Williams

BETTING: 7-4 Hot Or Miss, 5-2 Contrave, 5-1 Hotter, 10-1 Rahona, 30-1 Don't Forget Shiner.

1995: PENNY PARKES 8-3 J Carroll (4-1) Jersey 8-9

FORM FOCUS

2.35 GLOBAL SHOPPERS MAIDEN STAKES

(3-Y-O; £4,076; 7f (15 runners))

301 (10) ALFREY PARTNER (P Smid) W. Jones 8-9 — K. Detrait
302 (12) AMBASSADOR (T M Hollins) S. Miles 9-0 — T. Odwyer
303 (7) AMERICAN MCCATTOP (101 (D Alford) S. Melchers 8-9 — A. Carel
304 (5) AFTERMIDNIGHT (P Love & Partners) M. Heslop 8-9 — W. Woods
305 (14) DEPUTATION (Matthew Racing) P. Gandy 9-0 — L. Detrait
306 (2) DOUG (P. Gandy) 144 (K. Alford) M. Heslop 8-9 — W. Woods
307 (13) EQUUS (P. Gandy) 144 (K. Alford) M. Heslop 8-9 — L. Detrait
308 (19) FORTRESS (P. Gandy) 144 (K. Alford) M. Heslop 8-9 — K. Detrait
309 (11) GROCK TRIAL (P. Leonard) M. J. Ross 8-9 — K. Detrait
310 (18) GULFSTREAM (P. Leonard) M. J. Ross 8-9 — K. Detrait
311 (4) HAZEL (P. Leonard) M. J. Ross 8-9 — K. Detrait
312 (15) HAZEL (P. Leonard) M. J. Ross 8-9 — K. Detrait
313 (17) HAZEL (P. Leonard) M. J. Ross 8-9 — K. Detrait
314 (12) HAZEL (P. Leonard) M. J. Ross 8-9 — K. Detrait
315 (19) HAZEL (P. Leonard) M. J. Ross 8-9 — K. Detrait
316 (20) HAZEL (P. Leonard) M. J. Ross 8-9 — K. Detrait

BETTING: 2-1 Domak Amaam, 3-1 Hotter, 7-1 Amazons, 9-1 Oceanus, 12-1 Angels McCleary, 20-1

1995: TORRENTIAL 9-0 Domak Amaam 7-11, Hazels 12-11, First Island 14-11

FORM FOCUS

3.05 CYSTIC FIBROSIS RESEARCH CUP HANDICAP

(E5,120; 2m 2f (21 runners))

301 (17) 402341 - MEAT TO BE 114 (F.5) Lady Mustang's Lady Horse 8-11... — J. Reid
302 (18) 402342 - MEAT TO BE 114 (F.5) Lady Mustang's Lady Horse 8-11... — J. Reid
303 (19) 402343 - BLAZE AWAY 251 (F.5) Mr McLean's 10-11... — L. Detrait
304 (20) 402340 - EVERZO 251 (F.5) (7 Charles) M. Heslop 8-9... — T. Odwyer
305 (21) 402345 - FAIRY QUEEN 142 (F.5) (7 Charles) M. Heslop 8-9... — T. Odwyer
306 (22) 402346 - GOLD LONE 13 (F.5) (7 Charles) M. Heslop 8-9... — T. Odwyer
307 (23) 402347 - GOLD PROBLEMS 142 (F.5) (7 Charles) M. Heslop 8-9... — T. Odwyer
308 (24) 402348 - HAZEL 142 (F.5) (7 Charles) M. Heslop 8-9... — T. Odwyer
309 (25) 402349 - SATIN LOWER 164 (F.5) (7 Charles) M. Heslop 8-9... — T. Odwyer
310 (26) 402350 - SWIMMING 122 (F.5) (7 Charles) M. Heslop 8-9... — T. Odwyer
311 (27) 402351 - TORCH VEN 222 (F.5) (7 Charles) M. Heslop 8-9... — T. Odwyer
312 (28) 402352 - MONDRAGON 231 (F.5) (7 Charles) M. Heslop 8-9... — T. Odwyer
313 (29) 402353 - MONDRAGON 231 (F.5) (7 Charles) M. Heslop 8-9... — T. Odwyer
314 (30) 402354 - MONDRAGON 231 (F.5) (7 Charles) M. Heslop 8-9... — T. Odwyer
315 (31) 402355 - MONDRAGON 231 (F.5) (7 Charles) M. Heslop 8-9... — T. Odwyer
316 (32) 402356 - MONDRAGON 231 (F.5) (7 Charles) M. Heslop 8-9... — T. Odwyer
317 (33) 402357 - MONDRAGON 231 (F.5) (7 Charles) M. Heslop 8-9... — T. Odwyer
318 (34) 402358 - MONDRAGON 231 (F.5) (7 Charles) M. Heslop 8-9... — T. Odwyer
319 (35) 402359 - MONDRAGON 231 (F.5) (7 Charles) M. Heslop 8-9... — T. Odwyer
320 (36) 402360 - TIPPEE 247 (F.5) (7 Charles) M. Heslop 8-9... — T. Odwyer
321 (37) 402361 - TORRENTIAL 9-0 Domak Amaam 7-11, Hazels 12-11, First Island 14-11

FORM FOCUS

3.05 CYSTIC FIBROSIS RESEARCH CUP HANDICAP

(E5,120; 2m 2f (21 runners))

301 (17) 402341 - MEAT TO BE 114 (F.5) Lady Mustang's Lady Horse 8-11... — J. Reid
302 (18) 402342 - MEAT TO BE 114 (F.5) Lady Mustang's Lady Horse 8-11... — J. Reid
303 (19) 402343 - BLAZE AWAY 251 (F.5) Mr McLean's 10-11... — L. Detrait
304 (20) 402340 - EVERZO 251 (F.5) (7 Charles) M. Heslop 8-9... — T. Odwyer
305 (21) 402345 - FAIRY QUEEN 142 (F.5) (7 Charles) M. Heslop 8-9... — T. Odwyer
306 (22) 402346 - GOLD LONE 13 (F.5) (7 Charles) M. Heslop 8-9... — T. Odwyer
307 (23) 402347 - GOLD PROBLEMS 142 (F.5) (7 Charles) M. Heslop 8-9... — T. Odwyer
308 (24) 402348 - HAZEL 142 (F.5) (7 Charles) M. Heslop 8-9... — T. Odwyer
309 (25) 402349 - SATIN LOWER 164 (F.5) (7 Charles) M. Heslop 8-9... — T. Odwyer
310 (26) 402350 - SWIMMING 122 (F.5) (7 Charles) M. Heslop 8-9... — T. Odwyer
311 (27) 402351 - TORCH VEN 222 (F.5) (7 Charles) M. Heslop 8-9... — T. Odwyer
312 (28) 402352 - MONDRAGON 231 (F.5) (7 Charles) M. Heslop 8-9... — T. Odwyer
313 (29) 402353 - MONDRAGON 231 (F.5) (7 Charles) M. Heslop 8-9... — T. Odwyer
314 (30) 402354 - MONDRAGON 231 (F.5) (7 Charles) M. Heslop 8-9... — T. Odwyer
315 (31) 402355 - MONDRAGON 231 (F.5) (7 Charles) M. Heslop 8-9... — T. Odwyer
316 (32) 402356 - MONDRAGON 231 (F.5) (7 Charles) M. Heslop 8-9... — T. Odwyer
317 (33) 402357 - MONDRAGON 231 (F.5) (7 Charles) M. Heslop 8-9... — T. Odwyer
318 (34) 402358 - MONDRAGON 231 (F.5) (7 Charles) M. Heslop 8-9... — T. Odwyer
319 (35) 402359 - MONDRAGON 231 (F.5) (7 Charles) M. Heslop 8-9... — T. Odwyer
320 (36) 402360 - TIPPEE 247 (F.5) (7 Charles) M. Heslop 8-9... — T. Odwyer
321 (37) 402361 - TORRENTIAL 9-0 Domak Amaam 7-11, Hazels 12-11, First Island 14-11

FORM FOCUS

3.05 CYSTIC FIBROSIS RESEARCH CUP HANDICAP

(E5,120; 2m 2f (21 runners))

301 (17) 402341 - MEAT TO BE 114 (F.5) Lady Mustang's Lady Horse 8-11... — J. Reid
302 (18) 402342 - MEAT TO BE 114 (F.5) Lady Mustang's Lady Horse 8-11... — J. Reid
303 (19) 402343 - BLAZE AWAY 251 (F.5) Mr McLean's 10-11... — L. Detrait
304 (20) 402340 - EVERZO 251 (F.5) (7 Charles) M. Heslop 8-9... — T. Odwyer
305 (21) 402345 - FAIRY QUEEN 142 (F.5) (7 Charles) M. Heslop 8-9... — T. Odwyer
306 (22) 402346 - GOLD LONE 13 (F.5) (7 Charles) M. Heslop 8-9... — T. Odwyer
307 (23) 402347 - GOLD PROBLEMS 142 (F.5) (7 Charles) M. Heslop 8-9... — T. Odwyer
308 (24) 402348 - HAZEL 142 (F.5) (7 Charles) M. Heslop 8-9... — T. Odwyer
309 (25) 402349 - SATIN LOWER 164 (F.5) (7 Charles) M. Heslop 8-9... — T. Odwyer
310 (26) 402350 - SWIMMING 122 (F.5) (7 Charles) M. Heslop 8-9... — T. Odwyer
311 (27) 402351 - TORCH VEN 222 (F.5) (7 Charles) M. Heslop 8-9... — T. Odwyer
312 (28) 402352 - MONDRAGON 231 (F.5) (7 Charles) M. Heslop 8-9... — T. Odwyer
313 (29) 402353 - MONDRAGON 231 (F.5) (7 Charles) M. Heslop 8-9... — T. Odwyer
314 (30) 402354 - MONDRAGON 231 (F.5) (7 Charles) M. Heslop 8-9... — T. Odwyer
315 (31) 402355 - MONDRAGON 231 (F.5) (7 Charles) M. Heslop 8-9... — T. Odwyer
316 (32) 4

Clubs and unions seek way forward

BY DAVID HANDS
RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

THE doubt and uncertainty that has shrouded the future structure of rugby union in the northern hemisphere may lift after the series of meetings taking place this week, though no one will guarantee it. In particular, the framework of European club competition should become clearer.

The Rugby Football Union (RFU), whose executive committee chairman, Cliff Brittle, left, appealed for unity this week, met representatives of the English first division clubs in London yesterday; today it is the turn of the French clubs, who gather at the office of the French federation in Paris, while tomorrow the Welsh rugby union is due to thrash

out differences with its leading clubs.

The questions under debate are much the same in all three countries, but the Paris meeting is of particular significance since it is the first time that the federation has recognised officially the existence of the Union des Clubs, the 40-strong association presided over by Séraphin Berthier, who is the treasurer of the powerful Grenoble club.

The fundamental issue is the funding of the game at club level in the professional era. Hitherto, the clubs in all three countries have been accustomed to their national union distributing sponsorship money; now they seek to do it for themselves.

Against that must be balanced the trump card of

international rugby, which the unions hold. In the immediate, and possibly long-term, future the game will gain exposure not through club rugby but through its international programme, which also offers commercial possibilities for the better players.

The unknown factor is the degree to which both sides are prepared to compromise. The key to progress appears to be the Heineken Cup, which the clubs believe offers them new money, through fresh commercial and television arrangements — though it seems unfortunate that so far there has been little consultation with the brewing company which, like ITV, has options for a further two years on a contract understood to be worth some £20 million.

Heineken whose sponsorship of the Welsh league ends this season, is looking at marketing opportunities on the continent and believes that an expanded European tournament, shown to millions on terrestrial television, represents better value than the double-decker competition formula backed by satellite television towards which the clubs are groping.

Meanwhile European Rugby Cup Limited (ERC), the organiser of the Heineken Cup on behalf of the five nations, waits patiently to hear the names of new season's participants. Ireland's and Scotland's leading three provinces are already nominated, as are Toulouse, the Bridgeman stand-off half, has become the second Welsh to sign for Wasps. He will join the Neath lock, Glyn Llewellyn, there.

Balshaw shines in sevens victory

BY A CORRESPONDENT

JAIN BALSHAW, an England schools full back, masterminded Stonyhurst's second open side at the national seven-a-side rugby union competition at Rosslyn Park yesterday. Balshaw, playing for the first time in the world's largest sevens tournament, scored an outstanding 16 tries during the competition and two in his school's 29-10 win in the final against Glantaf.

A schools cricket cap for Lancashire, Balshaw showed his versatility by hauling his side back into the tournament earlier in the day when they were on the verge of going out in both the quarter- and semi-final stages.

Against Glantaf, who had beaten a fellow Welsh side, Haworth, in the quarter-final, three tries in the first half, one from Balshaw, were enough to ensure Stonyhurst would take their seventh sevens win of the season.

Another try from Balshaw, and one from Gerald Maughan, sent them into a 29-0 lead. Although Glantaf hit back with two scores, the cup had already been won.

Stonyhurst had struggled, however, in the semi-final, trailing 15-14 with two minutes left of their game against Wimbledon College, before Mark Morris dived over to clinch victory.

For Glantaf, their attentions turn to the Welsh schools semi-final. On Monday, they face Croskeys College.

Results, page 39

Hastings steps uneasily into new role



Gavin Hastings follows a familiar routine in the unfamiliar suit of an American footballer as he adjusts to his new lifestyle with the Scottish Claymores at their training camp in Carrollton, Georgia (Richard Wetherell writes). The former Scotland rugby union captain, who is being groomed as a kicker, said the experience is a "culture shock, but every day I learn a bit more".

Hastings, who unsurprisingly has been given a No 15 shirt, played down his chances of making the starting line-up when the World League season opens next month. "It would have been easier to keep playing international rugby," he said.

Hastings has been at the camp for two weeks. At a scrum, a practice against another team on Tuesday, when he kicked one out of three field goals, Hastings was unnerved by not knowing what to do when he came on to the pitch. He described it as "panic stations". "Where to you place the ball? Where do you run to? Do you go into the huddle with the rest of the guys? These are questions you have to know the answers to."

Scotland's record points scorer knows that the Claymores would love to have him in the team, but he is reluctant to commit himself. His feelings have not changed since he agreed to join them last

month, when he said: "If I kick like an idiot, I won't be coming back as a Scottish Claymore — it's as simple as that."

Hastings is also aware that he benefits from the World League regulation that seven of the team must be European. "If they didn't have any national players, I would not be here."

His main rival for the kicking job is Paul McCallum, who played in the Canadian Football League last year, and whose parents were born in Scotland. That may be a nice hook, but certainly less of an attraction than Hastings would be to entice people to Murrayfield.

HOLIDAYS FOR A LIFETIME (AND THE FINEST VIEWS IN SPAIN)



South Africans heed rallying cry

FROM DAVID RHTS JONES
IN ADELAIDE

THE cry of "Op die Bokke!" that rent the air at the Lockleys Bowls Centre inspired three South Africans to great feats in the final round-robin session of the triples at the world outdoor bowls championship here yesterday.

Perhaps their supporters had forgotten, for the moment, that the national emblem is no longer the springbok, but "up the Proteas" does not have the same ring to it.

Theuns Fraser, Ashley Van Winkel and Kevin Campbell needed to beat Ian McClure, Gary McCloy and Noel Graham, of Ireland, by at least 13 shots to secure a place in the semi-finals, but the Irish trio were rock steady for the first nine ends, by which stage the scores were level at 9-9.

Campbell's men, however,

claimed a count of five on the eleventh end and four on the thirteenth, opening up a 20-9 advantage.

Ireland seemed to have stemmed the tide when they won two of the next three ends, reducing the margin to nine shots at 21-12. A count of three gave the South Africans a 24-12 lead and meant that whoever scored on the final end would advance to the last

ENGLAND retained the women's home international team bowls championship when they defeated Scotland 113-100 in Llanelli yesterday (Gordon Allan writes). Apart from a brief spell early in a rousing match, Scotland were forced to play catch-up bowls and England finished the calmer, stronger side.

England lead way home

four. Suddenly, Irish nerves started to jangle and the South Africans scored a decisive double.

In the semi-finals today, South Africa will take on Scotland, who came through their section unbeaten, and Australia meet New Zealand, who moved past England in one of the best matches of the championship.

That encounter, between

two hitherto unbeaten teams, amounted to a sudden-death knockout and could have gone either way.

Brett Morley, David Cutler and John Bell, the England trio, could point to one end, mid-game, that led to their downfall.

Twice they built up good positions, only to see Peter Belliss, the New Zealand skip, kill the end. On the second replay, New Zealand scored three shots and stole the initiative.

In the seventeenth end, trailing 13-17, England gambled. Bell fired, spot on target, and almost made four shots to tie the match instead, New Zealand were left with a crucial count of five.

The play left England 22-19 and the match was virtually over.

Results, page 39

WORD-WATCHING

Answers from page 40

ABNEY

(c) A small hand instrument used by surveyors for measuring slopes and angles above the horizon. The eponym of Sir William Abney (1844-1921). As in the *Abney level*. "The Abney level or clinometer, which consists of a sighting tube fixed to a semicircular vertical plate marked in degrees, with a spirit level attached to its index, is used to measure vertical angles."

GONGORA

(b) A plant or flower of the genus of tropical American orchids so named. A humble eponym from the proud name of Don Antonio Caballero y Gongora (fl. 1782), Viceroys of New Granada.

DOGAN

(b) An Irish Roman Catholic, a racist eponym from the fairly common Irish surname from the backwoods. *Dogan*. "Many a time I got a smart clout on the lug and was told to take that for a dirty little dogon."

CANOT

(c) The French word for canoe, used in certain French phrases relating to the Canadian fur trade. "The largest kind of canoes used in the trade, viz., those which used to be dispensed from Lachine, on first open water, to Fort William, Lake Superior, and which were called *Canots du Maître*."

14 DAY PEACE OF MIND WHEN YOU BUY TIMESHARE WITH BARRATT

If you change your mind within 14 days your contract will be cancelled, and all monies paid including any deposit will be refunded.

CALL NOW

(01590) 673582



BARRATT'S PRIVATE HOUSEBUILDERS

SOLUTION TO WINNING CHESS MOVE

I Now! and if I ... Qxd3 2 Rxd8 is mate.

SNOW REPORTS

	Depth (cm)	L	U	Conditions	Off/Up	Rime to resort	Weather (°C)	Last snow
ANDORRA Soldeu	110	240	good	varied	good	sun	-3	16/8

(Good sailing on all runs, some runs soft after lunch)

	Depth (cm)	L	U	Conditions	Off/Up	Rime to resort	Weather (°C)	Last snow
--	------------	---	---	------------	--------	----------------	--------------	-----------

(Most pistes still in good shape, some worn/bare patches)

	Depth (cm)	L	U	Conditions	Off/Up	Rime to resort	Weather (°C)	Last snow
--	------------	---	---	------------	--------	----------------	--------------	-----------

(Most pistes still in good shape, some worn/bare patches)

	Depth (cm)	L	U	Conditions	Off/Up	Rime to resort	Weather (°C)	Last snow
--	------------	---	---	------------	--------	----------------	--------------	-----------

(Good sailing with no bare patches showing yet)

	Depth (cm)	L	U	Conditions	Off/Up	Rime to resort	Weather (°C)	Last snow
--	------------	---	---	------------	--------	----------------	--------------	-----------

(Good sailing with no bare patches showing yet)

	Depth (cm)	L	U	Conditions	Off/Up	Rime to resort	Weather (°C)	Last snow
--	------------	---	---	------------	--------	----------------	--------------	-----------

(Good sailing with no bare patches showing yet)

	Depth (cm)	L	U	Conditions	Off/Up	Rime to resort	Weather (°C)	Last snow
--	------------	---	---	------------	--------	----------------	--------------	-----------

(Reasonably good skiing but snow hardly worn/snowy)

	Depth (cm)	L	U	Conditions	Off/Up	Rime to resort	Weather (°C)	Last snow
--	------------	---	---	------------	--------	----------------	--------------	-----------

(Very heavy conditions after lunch, mixed visibility)

	Depth (cm)	L	U	Conditions	Off/Up	Rime to resort	Weather (°C)	Last snow
--	------------	---	---	------------	--------	----------------	--------------	-----------

(Very heavy conditions after lunch, mixed visibility)

	Depth (cm)	L	U	Conditions	Off/Up	Rime to resort	Weather (°C)	Last snow
--	------------	---	---	------------	--------	----------------	--------------	-----------

(Very heavy conditions after lunch, mixed visibility)

	Depth (cm)	L	U	Conditions	Off/Up	Rime to resort	Weather (°C)	Last snow
--	------------	---	---	------------	--------	----------------	--------------	-----------

(Very heavy conditions after lunch, mixed visibility)

	Depth (cm)	L	U	Conditions	Off/Up	Rime to resort	Weather (°C)	Last snow
--	------------	---	---	------------	--------	----------------	--------------	-----------

(Very heavy conditions after lunch, mixed visibility)

	Depth (cm)	L	U	Conditions	Off/Up	Rime to resort	Weather (°C)	Last snow
--	------------	---	---	------------	--------	----------------	--------------	-----------

(Very heavy conditions after lunch, mixed visibility)

	Depth (cm)	L	U	Conditions	Off/Up	Rime to resort	Weather (°C)	Last snow
--	------------	---	---	------------	--------	----------------	--------------	-----------

(Very heavy conditions after lunch, mixed visibility)

	Depth (cm)	L	U	Conditions	Off/Up	Rime to resort	Weather (°C)	Last snow
--	------------	---	---	------------	--------	----------------	--------------	-----------

(Very heavy conditions after lunch, mixed visibility)

	Depth (cm)	L	U	Conditions	Off/Up	Rime to resort	Weather (°C)	Last snow
--	------------	---	---	------------	--------	----------------	--------------	-----------

(Very heavy conditions after lunch, mixed visibility)

	Depth (cm)	L	U	Conditions	Off/Up	Rime to resort	Weather (°C)	Last snow
--	------------	---	---	------------	--------	----------------	--------------	-----------

(Very heavy conditions after lunch, mixed visibility)

	Depth (cm)	L	U	Conditions	Off/Up	Rime to resort	Weather (°C)	Last snow
--	------------	---	---	------------	--------	----------------	--------------	-----------

(Very heavy conditions after lunch, mixed visibility)

	Depth (cm)	L	U	Conditions	Off/Up	Rime to resort	Weather (°C)	Last snow
--	------------	---	---	------------	--------	----------------	--------------	-----------

(Very heavy conditions after lunch, mixed visibility)

	Depth (cm)	L	U	Conditions	Off/Up	Rime to resort	Weather (°C)	Last snow
--	------------	---	---	------------	--------	----------------	--------------	-----------

(Very heavy conditions after lunch, mixed visibility)

</

SPORT

FRIDAY MARCH 22 1996

GOLF 40

RIVALS LEFT TO
FRET AS SWEDEN
MAKES HIS MOVE

Graveney accepts nomination

Illingworth's position under threat

BY SIMON WILDE

RAYMOND Illingworth said that if his position as chairman of the England cricket selectors was to be challenged, he would fight his corner hard. He had better get into training fast. David Graveney, a fellow selector and nominated by Warwickshire, had no sooner been confirmed yesterday as his opponent than he was unveiling a power-packed manifesto perfectly capable of delivering a knockout blow.

The men could hardly be more different. Illingworth is 63 and autocratic, a style that won him many honours at county and international level on the field, but which has served him less well off it. Graveney is 43 and a democrat, as his work as general secretary of the Cricketers' Association testifies. He never played for England, never won a championship in his 23 years with Somerset, Gloucestershire and Durham, and has made few enemies.

What they have in common is a passion about the game and an ability to think deeply about it. Arguably, though, Illingworth's thoughts are going out of fashion fast, which may explain why the Test and County Cricket Board (TCCB), understandably shocked and angry at England's results and demeanour at the World Cup, earlier this month ordered an inquiry into all aspects of the national team's management.

If Graveney wins the postal ballot among the 20 members of the TCCB, the result of which will be known on Tuesday, its inquiry may be rendered unnecessary, because he has specific and wide-ranging proposals to create an environment in which England could thrive again.

Graveney was at pains to stress that, if he replaced Illingworth, who has been chairman since 1994, he would not perform the same functions as his predecessor. He regards the chairman's role as an overseeing one — "making

sure the right structure is operating properly".

This structure would involve a larger back-room staff, in line with those that Australia and South Africa successfully employ. There would be a permanent team administrator, team manager and chief coach, and other coaches as well, each with specific duties.

For these positions, Graveney has in mind men of a similar vintage to himself, with Ian Botham high on his list of candidates. "I can see an important role for him in the dressing-room and in a general coaching and motivational capacity," he said yesterday. "He inspires and he gets on



Graveney: proposals

well with the players." The position of team administrator would be a natural one for John Barclay, who was an able assistant to Illingworth during the World Cup and in South Africa. Several counties are understood to have wanted Barclay to stand for the chairmanship, but he declined to do so. Perhaps Graveney's plans will attract such counties to his camp.

Others who could benefit from Graveney's appointment are David Lloyd, the Lancashire coach, and Mike Gatting, the Middlesex captain, who has long been earmarked for a national coaching role. Graveney made

it clear that he would like Michael Atherton to continue as captain for some time to come, his burden eased by the expanded administrative and coaching staff.

By comparison, Illingworth's ideas, such as they are, look thin. The central one was that he should be invested with unprecedented powers, being England manager and well as chairman, but after a year that policy has been condemned as a failure.

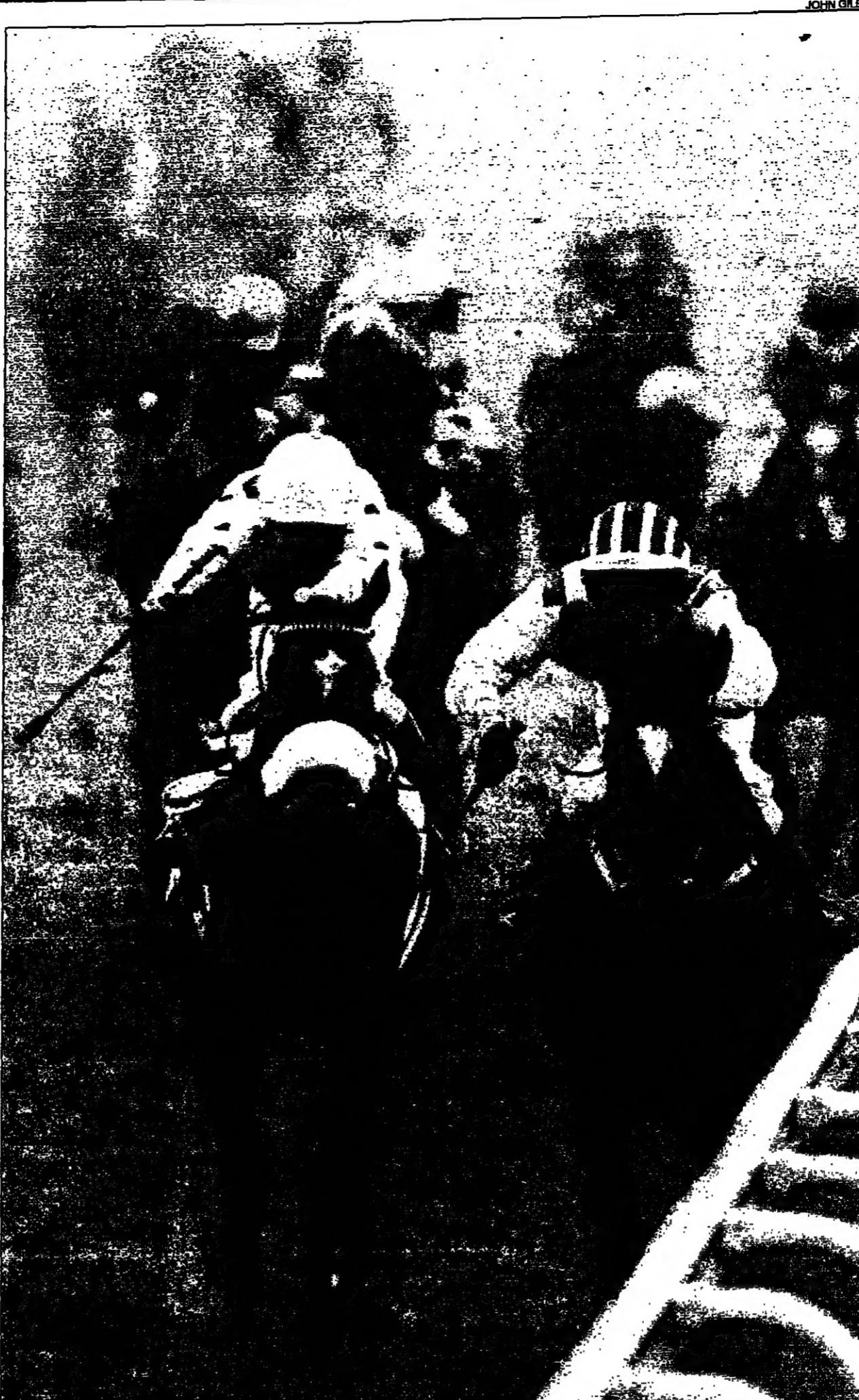
It had been thought likely that he would forfeit the position of manager, but he may lose both — and on the same day. His future as England manager will be considered by the TCCB's executive committee on Tuesday afternoon, directly before the result of the voting for chairman is announced.

Like Graveney, Illingworth

wants to surround himself with men of his own generation, but some of the selectors and coaches he has favoured have been accused, like himself, of lacking empathy with the modern professional. Illingworth's unilateral decision-making — notably his last-minute switch of wicket-keepers before the Lord's Test match against West Indies last year — also lost him friends, and arguably deprived England of one of its leading benefactors, Patrick Whittingdale, who was upset at the equivocal support offered to Atherton.

Illingworth's reputation has always rested on his results rather than his methods. His fate must be that the counties will now judge him on his record, and kick him out.

□ Brian Lara may be summoned before the West Indies Cricket Board of Control's disciplinary committee after an altercation with Dennis Wright, the team trainer. Reports in Bridgetown yesterday suggested that Lara and Wright had been involved in an acrimonious exchange as the team flew to London from India after the World Cup.



Royston French, right, takes a short-lived lead in the 1996 jockeys' championship as he partners Haya Ya Kefaha to victory over Outstayed Welcome in the first race of the turf Flat season at Doncaster yesterday. Racing, page 41

England's train of thought is turned to youngsters

BY RUSSELL KEMPSON

THREE of England's most promising young footballers have been invited to join the national squad during preparations for the international match against Bulgaria at Wembley next Wednesday.

Terry Venables, the England coach, has extended a welcome to Lee Bowyer, the Charlton Athletic midfield player, Richard Wright, the Ipswich Town goalkeeper, and Ian Moore, a striker with Tranmere Rovers. Though there is no possibility of them appearing against Bulgaria, they will play a full part in training at Blundstone Abbey.

For Bowyer, 19, it completes a swift return to grace after testing positive for cannabis a year ago in a random drugs test carried out by the Football Association. "It's a brilliant opportunity for Lee," Alan Curbishley, the Charlton manager, said. "He's the type of lad who learns very quickly and it will be a great education for him. He won't be overawed."

Bowyer has missed only three games for Charlton this season, scoring 14 goals, and has played for the England Under-18 and Under-21 sides. Arsenal and Liverpool are among the FA Carling Premiership clubs to have closely monitored his progress.

Wright, 18, the England Under-18 goalkeeper, has replaced Craig Forrest in the Ipswich first team and has made 19 appearances this season. An Ipswich spokesman said: "He couldn't believe it when he heard the news but he's a very level-headed lad and I'm sure he'll do well." Moore, 18, is the son of the coach at Preston Park, Ronny Moore, and has scored ten goals for Tranmere this season.

"It's a sort of getting-to-know-you exercise, which is great experience for them," Steve Double, an FA spokesman, said.

□ The Bulgaria coach, Dimitar Penev, has chosen a squad close to full strength for the match at Wembley. Only the injured defender, Tsanko Tsvetanov, is missing from a party of 18.

SQUAD: B Mihailov, D Popov, E Krastev, T Ivanov, P Hulakov, G Ganchev, I Naykov, R Kacharov, Z Yankov, D Bonarov, I Yordanov, H Stoichkov, Y Lechev, K Bakalov, L Penev, E Kostadinov, B Guentchev, N Sashkov.

REHOBETH puts Cle

REHOBETH puts Cle